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Hafa Adai!

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Tourist missing, car abandoned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 27-year-old Chinese tourist went missing on Rota nearly two months ago, with police officers finding his rental vehicle abandoned last April 5.

Qiao

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said yesterday that Rota police officers have been unable to locate Zhi Qiao.

Shepard said that, according to the missing tourist's father, Qiao left Xin Jiang, China alone last March 6 for a vacation on Saipan.

Upon his arrival, Qiao checked into the GT Guest House in Garapan. He checked out last March 25.

» At least 6 other Chinese nationals have been reported missing since 1995

See TOURIST on Page 4

Maritime cadets explore Saipan

The *Golden Bear* training ship arrived Thursday and docked at the Port of Saipan, bringing almost 400 cadets undergoing on-the-job training and exploring the Pacific, including Saipan.
BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Deck and engine cadets from the California State University Maritime Academy made a port call on Saipan beginning last Thursday after three years on board the training ship *Golden Bear*.

Their "on-the-job" training experience and application of practical skills had the cadets plying the Pacific route from Samoa, to the Solomon Islands, Saipan, Hawaii,

See MARITIME on Page 4

FBI searches Americopters on Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents searched the office and maintenance facility of Americopters on Saipan in October 2016 in connection with the FBI's and other federal agencies' investigation into a scheme to use and lease unsafe aircraft that did not comply with U.S. safety aviation regulations, according to court records that the U.S. District Court for the NMI unsealed yesterday.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona unsealed the records regarding the search at the request of assistant

» In probe of Hansen Helicopters for using, leasing unsafe aircraft

See FBI on Page 4

Happiness reopens; assures public of food

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A Garapan restaurant that figured in a video that went viral has reopened after being cleared to do so by the Bureau of Environmental Health and the fire department, following inspections made at the establishment.

The operation of the Happiness Chinese Restaurant stopped for almost three weeks after a video showing one of their staff allegedly butchering a cat for human consumption surfaced and went viral on social media.

That, however, was not Happiness' violation. BEH suspended the restaurant due to unsanitary conditions that included roach infestation, unclean

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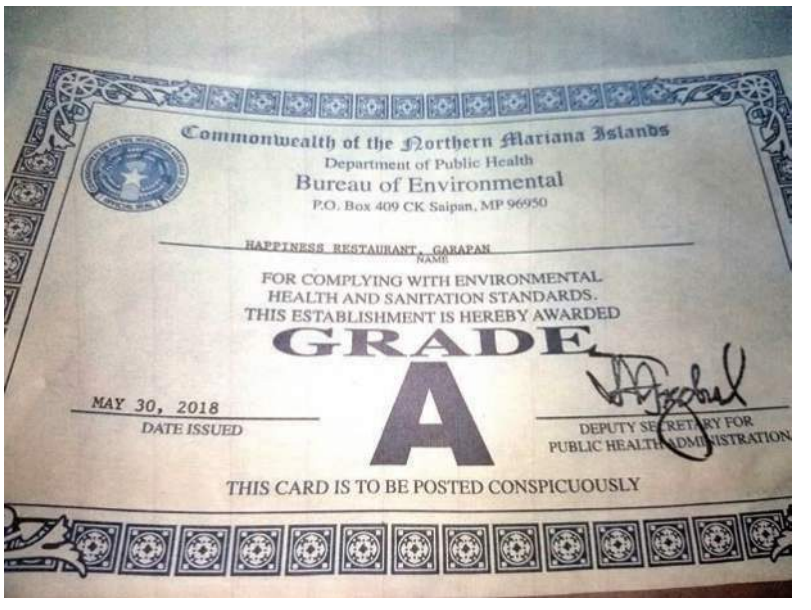

The Bureau of Environmental Health gives the Happiness Chinese Restaurant in Garapan a Grade "A."
JON PEREZ

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The book is fiction but the authors, Bill Clinton and James Patterson, swear it could happen.
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Local

Senator: Expand Tinian enhancements

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Tinian senator is urging the public to comment on the proposed changes to the Tinian divert airfield project that were outlined during a public scoping meeting last month.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said in an interview yesterday that the U.S. Air Force held a public scoping meeting on Tinian in mid-May, during which they proposed that a pipeline be installed in order to transport fuel for aircraft from the seaport to the divert facilities; improve roads that would be used during the construction period; and undertake seaport improvements during the construction period.

» Urges public to comment on Tinian divert

"…It is a proposal and now that it is out for review, they would be needing comments," said Hofschneider, adding that the USAF would also be working with the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

"I am very pleased with the progress," he said, adding that he too would be submitting comments to the USAF on the proposed changes.

When asked about his concerns, he said he wants the USAF to also include road improvements from the seaport all the way through 42nd Avenue and extend it all the way to the Broadway intersection on Tinian to the north, toward the divert airfield project.

Another is to make the proposed fuel pipeline from the seaport to the airport open for civilian use.

"...They are going to install the pipeline for jet fuel, so I am going to request to consider including civilian operations in the event that we have commercial flights in the future to allow us to [benefit] from that as well," said Hofschneider.

He did not specify when the deadline is for the commenting period.

CPA on Oct. 31, 2017, unanimously approved the USAF layout plan for the Tinian divert airfield project after several years of inactivity by the U.S. military.

UFO endorses fundraiser for crash victim

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organizations has joined other Filipino group with fundraising initiatives to aid the bereaved family of car crash victim Jessa Quila.

Quila, a 21-year-old from Pangasinan, Philippines, was on her way home when the car she was driving crashed into a power pole early Thursday morning in Dandan. Her remains, currently at the Commonwealth Health Center morgue, is awaiting repatriation.

According to UFO president Marlon Regaton, relatives and friends of Quila approached UFO last June 1 and asked for the organization's help to support their fundraising to aid Quila's bereaved family in Pangasinan.

Regaton said that UFO offered a helping hand through endorsement of the fundraising initiative. Quila left behind

See UFO on Page 4

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Solitary confinement prompts inmate to sue DOC

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An inmate is suing officials of the Department of Corrections for allegedly subjecting him to solitary confinement and isolation and failing to provide him adequate mental healthcare.

Jerry Ray is suing DOC Commissioner Vincent S. Attao, Corrections Division director Gregory Castro, acting commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, pre-trial operations captain Pius P. Yaroitemal, operation commander David Deleon Guerrero, and classification officer Cynthia B. Santos.

Ray, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., is suing them for allegedly subjecting him to cruel and unusual punishment, and providing him inadequate mental health treatment.

In his lawsuit Friday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Ray asked the court to declare that these officials' move to sanction him with administrative segregation, isolation, and solitary confinement, as well as the denial of his mental healthcare and treatment, constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

In both cases, he claims violation of the 8th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

He is demanding to be housed in an "open bay" area where he will not be isolated and subject to solitary confinement, and provide him with mental healthcare, including evaluations, treatment, medication, and counseling.

Ray demanded payment of $100 per day for his segregation, isolation, and solitary confinement from June 19, 2016, to June 27, 2017, and for the isolation and solitary confinement from June 27, 2017, to May 7, 2018.

He also demanded payment of damages for the denial of psychiatric mental healthcare.

He wants the court to direct DOC to craft a plan to address the mental healthcare of prisoners. Ray said the plan should include mental health and correctional staffing that shall be sufficient to provide prisoners with timely access to clinicians who can provide routine, urgent, emergency, and specialty mental healthcare such as on-site medical doctor, nurse, psychologist, and psychiatrist.

He said the other plan should include policies and practices that provide access to healthcare and screen for mental health conditions that need treatment.

Ray sought a plan for timely response to mental healthcare emergencies; timely prescription and distribution of medications and supplies necessary for medically adequate mental healthcare; and timely access to treatment for serious mental illness, including medication, therapy, inpatient treatment, and suicide prevention.

Ray, a habitual offender, has been a prisoner and inmate of DOC since 2012 after he was convicted of burglary.

According to Rayphand in the complaint, since Aug. 30, 2012, each and every alleged infraction of DOC rules, regardless of the facts, has resulted in Ray being sanctioned to the maximum, cell restriction, and isolation for the level of offense, plus restriction of all privileges such as no telephone calls except with attorney, no commissary privileges, no visitors, and only one hour of "fresh air."

Rayphand said that, beginning Aug. 23, 2014, while held in POD 4 C of DOC, Ray suffered various physical injuries such as 3 1/2-inch cut over his right eye when hit while playing basketball, swollen right eye and bruises on right ear and left upper side of his head, multiple bruises after being beaten up by officers, and other injuries.

Raypand said defendants continued to hold Ray in POD 4 until June 27, 2017, with the exception on Feb. 10 to 12, 2017, when Ray was moved to POD 2 F.

The lawyer said while in POD 4 C, from July 19, 2016 through June 27, 2017, Ray was held in solitary confinement and administrative segregation, with full restrictions when out of cell and taken out of cell alone, with one hand secured at mealtimes and in leg irons during shower time.

Since Oct. 20, 2016, Ray allegedly requested his need for psychiatric evaluation and assistance, but was denied.

The denial, Rayphand said, has caused Ray to suffer anxiety, stress, deterioration of his mental health, and sanctions for behavior resulting from deteriorating mental health.

On Dec. 19, 2016, Ray asked to be taken out of full restraints, but a DOC official allegedly denied it.

On Feb. 14, 2017, Rayphand said, in spite of their knowledge that Ray was subjected to mental, verbal and physical abuse in POD 4, defendants moved him back into POD 4.

On April 24, 2017, NMPASI, on behalf of Ray, requested defendants' assistance in addressing Ray's need for psychiatric care.

On June 27, 2017, Ray was allegedly stressed and cut himself. That same day, the DOC counselor recommended that he be taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for psychiatric evaluation due to self-harm attempts, and having been identified with having hallucinations such as hearing voices.

Rayphand said when Ray was taken to CHC for psychiatric evaluation and assistance, he was "treated and released" because there was no psychiatrist.

Upon returning to DOC, Ray was allegedly moved to POD 2 E where he was held in isolation and solitary confinement from June 27, 2017, until May 7, 2018.

Rayphand said although Ray was more out-of-cell time since May 27, 2018, he remains subject to isolation and confinement in his cell and has requested that he be assigned to a cell in "open bay" to alleviate his anxiety and further deterioration of his mental health.

Since October 2016 up to the present time, Rayphand said, defendants have denied Ray's requests.

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Scheduled power interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, June 7, from 9am to 1pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to safely relocate three spans of primary lines and pole hardware to an adjacent location such that existing underground wastewater lines beneath these distribution lines can be accessible for repair.

The repair of the underground wastewater lines is part of an ongoing effort to improve wastewater service for customers through the mitigation of aging wastewater infrastructure.

Power service to Chalan Kiya will be affected but not water wells. The W-5 wastewater lift station affecting the Chalan Laulau Middle Road, As Terlaje, San Jose, and Oleai areas will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks motorists to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the work areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilities-Corporationl). ***(PR)***

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

MARITIME

From Page 1

and a final stop in San Diego, California.

Almost 400 aspiring ship captains and marine engineers explored the island last weekend and, according to deck cadet Benjamin Joseph Yuse, he heard many good things about Saipan before coming here.

"I have heard of Saipan before coming here because I have some friends who went here three years ago and they said many good things about the island. It's a beautiful island and everyone's just so nice here. You have amazing places here where the view is spectacular and I'm having a great time," he said.

"We came here as part of our training to know how the ship is run. During freshman year, we do this because it's really learning whether or not you want to be on the ocean because it is a lot of people's first time out on the ocean. For seniors like me, it's kind of reinforcing everything what we learned for the last three years and putting it to use. We operate the training ship. Licensed officers are there to assist and the cadets are really running the show," he added.

Deck cadet Goody Walowit said the experience is satisfying both academically and historically.

Deck cadet Benjamin Joseph Yuse is a first-timer on island but has heard many good things about Saipan before coming here. BEA CABRERA

Deck cadet Goody Walowit said that traveling to Saipan is both academically and historically satisfying. BEA CABRERA

"What's great about this experience is we get to transit the entire Pacific Rim. We went down south across the equator and then here. What's even more great is we got to see all the islands that were involved in World War II. The experience is an eye-opener, especially the historical aspect like Guadalcanal and, of course, Saipan."

"I am aware of the U.S. military presence here. …A lot of us going through this training end up training for the military. …The U.S. Navy hires many graduates from the academy every year and a lot of them are actually based here on island, like our ship captain was on Saipan for 15 years, so…a lot of us may end up back here," he added.

Matt Giovannoni, a graduate of the academy in 2009 and currently based on Saipan, said the cruise is a great introduction to ship life.

"For most, it will be the first time living on a ship for months at a time. …When I was a cadet, I never came here as I was on a different cruise traveling to the Philippines, Fiji, America Samoa, Hong Kong, and Japan. I found out about Saipan after graduation when I was hired to work on the prepositioned ships," he said.

The cadets on board the *Golden Bear* training ship left the dock of Saipan yesterday and are headed to Lahaina, Hawaii to complete the fourth leg of their training cruise.

File photo provided to *Saipan Tribune* shows Matt Giovannoni, center, with his brother and father after graduating from the California State University Maritime Academy in 2009. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FBI

From Page 1

U.S. attorney Stephen Leon Guerrero.

Leon Guerrero said the need to seal the documents is no longer necessary.

Four executives of Guam-based Hansen Helicopters Inc. were arrested last May 31 after they were indicted in the U.S. District Court for Guam.

Arrested were John Darrell Walker, Marvin R. Reed, Kenneth Rufus Crowe, and Phillip Turner Kapp.

Walker owns Hansen Helicopters. He was arrested in Missouri where he resides. Reed, Crowe, and Kapp, who are all executives of Hansen, were arrested in Harmon, Guam.

According to court records, Manglona issued the search and seizure warrant on Oct. 24, 2016, at the request of FBI special agent Peter Prozik.

FBI special agents executed the search and seizure warrant on Oct. 26, 2016, at Americopters office in the golf shop of the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club in Koblerville, and at the Americopters maintenance facility in As Gonno Road in Koblerville.

Documents showed that the FBI seized several boxes of documents, computers, and other items.

According to FBI special agent Prozik, on March 20, 2015, a Federal Aviation Administration team was notified of a public complaint that an operator within the Pacific Ocean region was operating multiple helicopters in an un-airworthy condition, manufacturing helicopters, and using counterfeit data plates and unapproved parts.

Prozik said the complaint alleged that a Guam-based helicopter company was operating numerous helicopters that carry false or counterfeit date plates.

Prozik said the Micronesian Aviation Corp. has the same listed address as Americopters at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club in Koblerville.

Prozik said agents confirmed with the Saipan Department of Revenue and Tax that Micronesian Aviation Corp., doing business as Americopters, has an expired business license, number 4118, effective April 2016, listing Crowe as an owner.

TOURIST

From Page 1

Qiao maintained contact with his family in China and notified them via WeChat that he was going to Rota on April 4.

Shepard said that, according to the family, that was Qiao's last communication with his parents.

Rota police officers found Qiao's abandoned rental car last April 5. The report did not specify the location of the car where the officers found it.

The parents searched for their son in China, but when they were unable to locate him, they flew to Saipan last May 22.

Shepard said that Li Min Qiao arrived at the DPS headquarters in Susupe last Wednesday, May 30, at 3:32pm, to report that his son, Zhi Quiao, has been missing.

"If you have any information regarding Zhi Qiao, please contact DPS immediately at 664-9001," Shepard said.

At least six other Chinese nationals have been reported missing on Saipan since 1995, according to *Saipan Tribune* records based on police reports. Chinese nationals who have been reported missing while swimming or fishing are not included on the list.

Some of those reported missing Chinese nationals in the CNMI include:

■ Mei Hua Zhao, 25, a scuba diving instructor. She was reported missing in October 2015. Her friends discovered her 2015 Toyota Tacoma pickup truck parked behind Joker's Bar near McDonald's/Mobil gas station in Garapan.

■ Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li. He was reported missing on Jan. 17, 2015. His Toyota Tacoma pickup truck was found abandoned on a dirt road between Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach. A family member offered $50,000 cash reward for information.

■ Qi Run Li, manager of King's Disco in Garapan. He was last seen driving a Toyota Corolla in China Town on June 7, 2010. His car was recovered the following day in a parking lot formerly occupied by Shirley's Coffee Shop along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau. His family offered a $20,000 cash reward for information.

■ Ngai Fung Chang, 27, and his girlfriend, Lai Meung Kou, 28. The honeymooners were reported missing in March 1996. Parents and relatives came to Saipan in March or May 1996 after the two failed to return to Hong Kong on their scheduled arrival. The couple was reportedly last dropped by a taxicab in China Town. The parents offered a $20,000 cash reward for information.

■ Tian Ming, one of the then-owners of Sea King Restaurant and Joy Motel. He was reported missing on April 30, 1995, in Marpi. Ming's Toyota Camry was recovered at Banzai Cliff. Bloodstains were noted inside the car.

UFO

From Page 2

a 2-year-old son.

Yesterday, UFO released a press release to entice interested individuals to support the fundraiser,

"UFO will facilitate endorsement of the designated drop boxes location. The family representative…will be the sole contact for each donation boxes and the only representative allowed to pick up donation boxes," he said.

This fund drive will last from June 1 to June 23. Interested donors can drop donations at LBC Chalan Laulau and Garapan Branch, RUSTAN's FOREX in CK, RNV PNB/Forex Remittance in Garapan, APEX Remittance in CK, and D' Elegance Restaurant in Garapan.

For additional information on the donation boxes, contact Wilma Pangelinan at 287-1348/235-3653 or Dolores Soriano at 285-1766. These are the family representatives of Quila.

According to Regaton, relatives and friends of Quila, through the help of the Sto. Niño group, have also scheduled a nightly rosary/novena.

HAPPINESS

From Page 1

kitchen area, and the meat storage having poor temperature control.

Restaurant general manager Thomas Chong said the bureau had already cleared them and they had been issued the necessary permits to resume operations.

"The clearance and other necessary permits were given to us on May 30 after we have received compliance from the Sanitary Division. We already had the sanitary permit and BEH gave us Grade A [rating] after complying with environmental health and sanitation standards," Chong said.

He said that, as soon as they were shut down by BEH, their company paid the $4,000 fine the following day and worked to correct all their mistakes in order to comply with all safety and health regulations under CNMI law.

In a separate statement, Happiness said it has been in business in the CNMI since 1994 and that "they deeply respect, appreciate, and value the entire community." The action of one of its cooks was an isolated case, the restaurant assured.

"The unfortunate event published in the local papers [was] for personal consumption of our former cook is understandably upsetting. [The cook] has since left the CNMI on his own initiative and [he was] very regretful of his actions," added the statement.

Chong said the cook was staying at the next floor of the restaurant's building and what happened occurred after their operating hours. "The thing that one person did was not done inside the restaurant."

"It was done, you see where the gate is, at the backside. There's a door going in the restaurant. So, when they took the video and photo, it was directly. The guy was staying upstairs and it was after working hours."

No other meat

He added that since the restaurant opened in 1994, they only serve food that's are only allowed in the CNMI. "We just want to inform people that all of [the violations] have been corrected. What happened, had already happened."

"There was no cat meat inside the restaurant and we want to assure that to the public. He [cook] was outside and was an isolated incident," said Chong, who also mentioned that they are also offering a 20-percent discount from June 5 to 11 to entice their customers back.

The restaurant's corporate entity, American K&W, in a separate statement, said they assure the CNMI public that they only serve food that's accepted in the CNMI. "We want to assure the CNMI community and our valued customers that for the past 24 years that we have operated our restaurant, we have and will never serve anything that is not acceptable nor allowable in the CNMI."

"It is not in our business practice to allow any of this in our restaurant and the incident as published in the local papers took place after the restaurant hours and outside our restaurant customer dining area."

They added: "As a result of this and to bring comfort to the CNMI community, the CNMI Sanitation Division mentioned in the earlier article that there was no meat found in our restaurant of the slaughtered animal. We have also fully complied and corrected all the sanitation findings."

They are currently offering discounts on selected food items starting today up to June 11, Monday. "We deeply value our local customers. Our restaurant wants to offer to our local customers a 40-percent discount on selected seafood dishes only, U.S. king crab and Korea scallops."

"Other menu dishes will be offered at 20-percent off the menu price to our local customers as well. This offer is available for a week, June 5 to 11. Reservations is required, please call 233-9468."

Senator wants marriage law clarity in homestead regs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A CNMI Supreme Court decision in December 2017 regarding common-law marriages has prompted the introduction of a bill that clarifies certain regulations regarding homestead program eligibility for couples.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) wants to clarify in his Senate Bill 20-99 that since the CNMI Supreme Court ruled in December 2017 that common-law marriage is not deemed valid in the CNMI, the Department of Public Lands should judge the eligibility of an applicant applying for participation in the homestead program by their legal marital status instead.

DPL's homesteading regulations recognize common-law marriages and "treat common-law spouses the same as spouses that were married" in accordance to CNMI marriage laws. S.B. 20-99's findings said this has resulted in the denial of homestead applications of people whose common-law spouses already own land in or is already a recipient of a village or agricultural homestead.

"…In the past, there are regulations deployed by DPL and previous agencies [Marianas Public Lands Authority] invoking that common law marriage as a [means] to determine whether or not cohabitating applicants should be considered one applicant or two [separate] applicants," said Hofschneider.

"It appears that they have been deploying that policy to guide them, but it's clear now that it is…not permissible simply because of the clarification by the [Supreme Court ruling]," he added.

That means DPL now has to revisit past applicants who have been denied lots under these regulations.

S.B. 20-99 seeks to clarify that those who are legally married to a recipient of a village or agricultural homestead lot may not apply for a homestead lot.

The bill also repeals NMI Administrative Code entries that recognizes common-law marriages as well as entries that prohibit individuals from applying for homestead within the first six months after ceasing to cohabitate with an applicant or recipient of an agricultural homestead lot and prohibiting individuals to apply for a homestead if they are residing with an applicant or recipient of an agricultural homestead.

The bill has yet to be acted on and is currently with the Senate Judiciary, Governmental, and Law Committee, chaired by Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota).

Interior funds atmospheric and wave forecasting program for US territories

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of the Interior gave a $497,738 grant last week to the University of Hawaii Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research School of Ocean and Earth Science for a project to improve atmospheric and wave-forecasting through the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System.

"Protecting people and the border is a shared priority between [Interior] Secretary [Ryan] Zinke and myself," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary - Insular and International Affairs, "which includes protection from atmospheric hazards and storms for those who live in vulnerable island areas.

"Recent experiences with Tropical Cyclone Gita and Typhoon Soudelor in the Pacific and Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean remind us of the ongoing vulnerability islands and their inhabitants face during extreme weather."

The funds will help improve data collection about rainfall; change in typhoon patterns; availability of fresh water; and flooding and wave action from severe weather events, including high winds for American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In addition to collaborating closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service forecasting offices, the project will also respond to the needs of local, regional, and federal government agencies; emergency responders; scientists; resource managers; planners; various academic pursuits; professional consultants; marine engineers; marine operators; ocean users such as fishermen and surfers; and the general public.

All U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands served by the PacIOOS include the State of Hawaii; the territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI; and the Freely Associated States of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

Funding for this program is provided through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. ***(PR)***

Habitual offender gets 6 months for buying groceries using forged check

A habitual offender, who was among two charged with buying items at stores using checks from a company that has been closed since 2013, has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a six-month prison sentence.

In a written judgment last week, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja accepted Alofonso Kintin's guilty plea to theft.

Naraja sentenced Kintin to two years imprisonment, all suspended except for six months.

Kintin was given credit for time served. He is expected to be released from the Department of Corrections on July 26.

After completing the prison term, he will be placed on supervised probation for two years. He was ordered to pay $714 in restitution to the victim, LC Market in Gualo Rai, $100 in fine, $25 in court assessment fee, plus probation fee in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation.

Kintin was required to complete 100 hours of community service. He is prohibited from entering LC Market during his probation.

Last February, the Office of the Attorney General charged Kintin with felony theft and forgery. He and court-appointed counsel, Joaquin DLG Torres, signed a plea deal. Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio appeared for the government at the hearing.

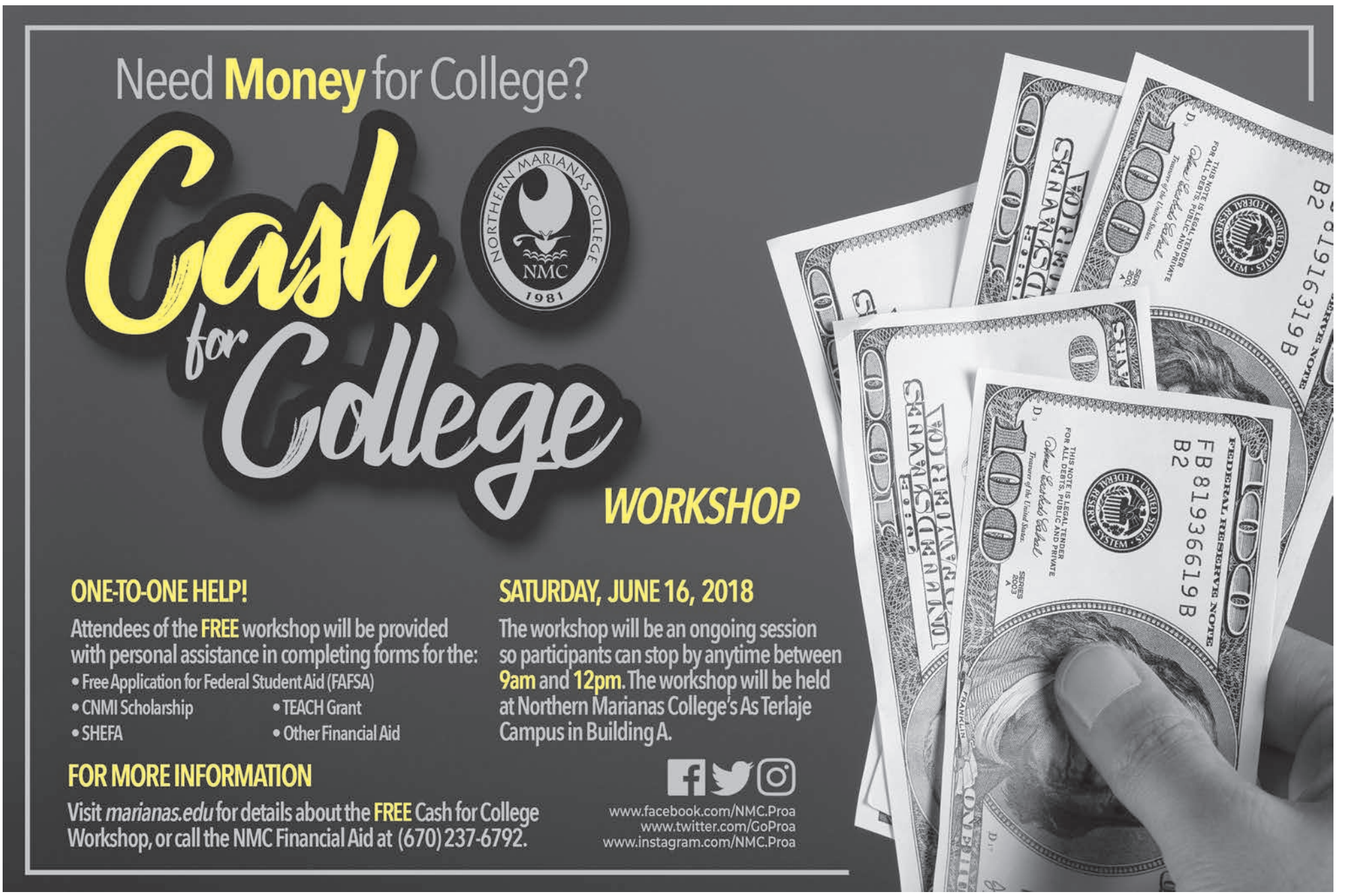
According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Dec. 23, 2017, Kintin stole groceries and U.S. currency worth $714 from LC Market.

Kintin and Nelsin A. Saimon were both arrested last January for buying items at the store using forged checks. Saimon allegedly purchased $156 worth of items from the store using a check with an amount of $578 belonging to Kae Poong (Saipan) Corp. last Dec. 22.

Saimon allegedly told the store employee that he works for Kae Poong Corp. He was given a change of $422.

A couple of days later, LC Market called the telephone number listed on the check and was informed that Kae Poong had been out of business since 2013. The case against Saimon is pending in court.

Last Dec. 26, police reviewed the surveillance camera at LC Market, which led to the arrest of the two defendants. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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• TEACH Grant
• SHEFA
• Other Financial Aid
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018
The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. The workshop will be held at Northern Marianas College's As Terlaje Campus in Building A.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit marianas.edu for details about the FREE Cash for College Workshop, or call the NMC Financial Aid at (670) 237-6792.
www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa
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Lions Club hands out grocery donations

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filipino-American Lions Club and its Relieving Hunger beneficiaries pose for a photo on Monday at the Tan Siu Lin Plaza in Garapan.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Filipino-American Lions Club completed its fifth centennial service challenge of the Lion year, with a focus on relieving hunger.

The Filipino-American Lions Club based on Saipan is dedicated to serving its community through five different centennial service challenges: Youth, Environment, Vision, Diabetes, and Hunger.

On Monday, 11 chosen by various Lions members were given grocery donations, courtesy of the club.

The event was simple but happiness and gratitude radiated from all 11 individuals and their families who received the donation.

According to Filipino-American Lions Club president Annamae Adaza, the donation was really about sharing blessings more than a task that needed to be completed.

"At the same time, [it's about] giving back to the community because that is really the purpose of this kind of event," she said.

Adaza said the funding for the groceries came from the Drag Queen pageant they hosted back in September and other fundraising events held throughout the Lion year.

"We cannot keep any funding for the club, it must go back into the community," she said.

There were originally 15 recipients of the grocery donations but only a total of 11 showed up. The recipients were Rogelio Garcia, Timothy Choway, Arman Salburo, Jasmer Paulis, Bing Dador, Ceperlita Baysa, Aldrin Mulinyawe, Alxas Hilario C. Fampt, Gemma Ragadi, Felipa Serrano, and Carmen Japinta.

The remaining four who were not present will be contacted by the Filipino-American Lions Club.

All beneficiaries were given noodles, canned goods, and one sack of rice, courtesy of the Filipino American Lions.

Public hearing on lease extensions last night

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House committee is looking to hold a public hearing this week for a Senate bill that seeks to extend the maximum initial lease terms.

In an announcement last week, the House Committee on Natural Resources led by Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) said that Senate President Arnold I. Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35, which seeks to bump up the maximum initial lease term of 25 years to 40 years, was up for public comments last night, June 4, on Capital Hill.

The bill was adopted by the committee at their May 18 meeting with a vote of 4-3, with Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) voting against its passage without a public hearing.

An even earlier committee meeting vote on the bill resulted in a stalemate of 3-3.

According to a previous interview with House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) on the bill, the House opted to defer action on Tinian.

He added that conducting a public hearing was solely the prerogative of the committee it was referred to, in this case the Natural Resources Committee.

In a previous Senate session in August 2017, S.B. 20-35 garnered unanimous Senate support.

Last night's public hearing solicited the testimonies of the mayors of Saipan and Northern Islands; the Saipan Municipal Council; Carolinian Affairs executive assistant; the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. president; Department of Public Lands; the Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive; a representative of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Saipan Chamber of Commerce; the Office of the Attorney General; the Marianas Visitors Authority; and the Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement president.

Members of the public were also encouraged to submit written comments through email.

Chacha, Tanapag middle schools promote classes

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

PRINCESS RIKKI DELA CRUZ LACSON
Valedictorian

KAIANA DARLENE FITIAL PITEG
Salutatorian

The Chacha Oceanview and Tanapag middle schools held their respective promotions last May 30 at their school grounds where more than 100 students moved on to senior high school for the 2018-2019 school year.

Princess Rikki Dela Cruz Lacson was Chacha's valedictorian and the recipient of the CNMI State Board of Education award, while Kaiana Darlene Fitial Piteg was the 2018 salutatorian aside from receiving the Public Schools System Commissioner's Award.

Lacson also had seven academic achievement awards that included subjects of mathematics, social studies, language arts, woodshop, Chamorro, business math, and computer application.

Bethany Toni Limes Taitano earned the subject award in science, while No'elani Kioko Manibusan Romolor duplicated the feat in physical education. Ely Joseph De Guzman Taitano was the Leadership awardee.

In addressing the crowd, Lacson thanked all of her teachers and staff of Chacha. "We went through a lot as a whole and my experience here at Chacha couldn't have any been better."

"I couldn't have done it without the motivation from the teachers and staff. They pushed me to go further than I could ever imagine. But most especially, my parents. Just knowing that they are proud of me brings me joy. They've been my No. 1 supporters."

Piteg, meanwhile, said she's pleased in receiving the second highest honor in their class. "[Not] in my wildest dream would I have ever thought that, throughout my years at Chacha, I would have get the chance to make it to where I am today."

"I would be lying if I said I have achieved everything alone. Nothing would have been possible without the support of my family, teachers, and best friends. I would like to thank you all for your encouragement."

TMS promotion

At Tanapag, keynote speaker Ben Jones Jr. told the students that high school will be the next road they would take after completing middle school. "Don't be afraid to make a wrong turn. Your final destination is a high school diploma."

"Having a high school diploma will open a lot of opportunities to all of you. Nothing is more beautiful than reaching your destination. Remember this, difficult roads lead to great destinations."

Shannea Mae Dino finished at the top of her class and also received the BOE award, while Bernalie Tina Dafrow was the salutatorian and was honored with the Commissioner of Education plaque.

Dino also earned the academic achievement awards in English language arts and social studies, while Dafrow was the Leadership awardee. Ayana Paige Sablan (CCL-HS), Dasol Erin Kim (general arts), Alex Megino (school leadership) were the other recipients. Dino, Santos, and Kyla Cruz earned the computer literacy honors.

Get up to $18K, free tuition studying marine science

The Guam Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research at the University of Guam is seeking to increase the number and diversity of students who choose careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by engaging students in its Graduate Research Assistantship Program. The GRA program is a yearlong program open to select graduate students seeking research opportunities with Guam EPSCoR faculty.

The research benefits include tuition waiver of up to 21 credits per semester for up to three academic years for graduate students, as well as faculty and research mentoring, travel opportunities, and an annual stipend of up to $18,000.

Student research training and tasks may include field work to investigate coral reefs or to deploy and retrieve oceanographic instruments, as well as work in the University of Guam Marine Laboratory's Molecular Lab. Selected students will learn about DNA extraction and sequencing and/or how to readout and analyze data to characterize marine environments. Ideal candidates are self-motivated, well organized, and have research interests related to oceanography and coral reefs.

Space is limited. The deadline to apply is July 2, 2018. Application forms are available at www.guamepscor.org and must be emailed to Guam EPSCoR Program Manager Mellani Lubuag at lubuagm@triton.uog.edu.

About Guam EPSCoR

The Guam Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research is a five-year, $6 million grant to the University of Guam from the National Science Foundation. The program aims to develop a Guam Ecosystems Collaboratorium to ensure the sustainability of coral reef ecosystems in the face of environmental change. Guam EPSCoR aims to situate Guam as a premier research and STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education hub bolstering sustainability, economic, development, and informed decision- making by engaging communities in 21st-century science. ***(PR)***

AMP to host junior ranger camp

This summer, American Memorial Park and its partner, Pacific Historic Parks, will host the Junior Ranger Camp summer program. The three-day camp is open to students in the 6th to 8th grades and provides opportunities for youth to explore the great outdoors while learning about the park, Saipan history, and other significant World War II sites on island.

This year, the park will host four free Junior Ranger Camp sessions as scheduled below:

- Session 1: American Memorial Park; June 26-28/8am to 2pm
- Session 2: San Antonio Youth Center; July 10-12/ 7:30am to 2:30pm
- Session 3: Tanapag Youth Center; July 17-19/7:30am to 2:30pm
- Session 4: Chacha Oceanview Middle School; July 24-26/7:30am to 2:30pm

Youths participating in Session 1 on June 26-28, 2018, must have transportation to and from American Memorial Park in Garapan.

For Sessions 2, 3, and 4 the park will provide transportation to and from three meeting points: San Antonio Youth Center, Tanapag Youth Center, and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

Youth will be enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so register soon! Registration forms are available at American Memorial Park, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Hopwood, Francisco Mendiola Sablan, Tanapag, and Dandan middle schools.

For more information, contact ranger Brooke Nevitt at American Memorial Park at 234-7207 Ext. 2020 or email address at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

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Move to Saipan helped shape Toskas

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonelle Gwyneth Toskas was initially unhappy when her family moved from Rota to Saipan when she was about to start eighth grade at Mt. Carmel School. She now credits her parents' decision for helping shape her to become the person she is today.

"When I started school at MCS, I had moved to Saipan just three days earlier from the island of Rota, where I had spent the first 13 years of my life. It was a smooth transition for me though," said Toskas in her valedictory speech during last Saturday's MCS commencement exercise at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

"I'll never forget my first day when I walked into Mr. Pak's class during third period and Tawnie shouted to me 'That's my new best friend!' and how C.J. came up to me and gave me a handshake, saying, 'Hi, I'm C.J., it's nice to meet you' and how in music class, Theresa pulled up a chair and we had our first conversation starting with her question, 'So… what are you?'"

JONELLE GWYNETH TOSKAS
Valedictorian

MONICA AIRA USI
Salutatorian

They were little things but they all formed part of her welcome to MCS. "I had my first welcome, made my first friend, and started the friendship with the person who would come to be one of my best friends today. What made my transition to Saipan smooth wasn't the place, it was the people."

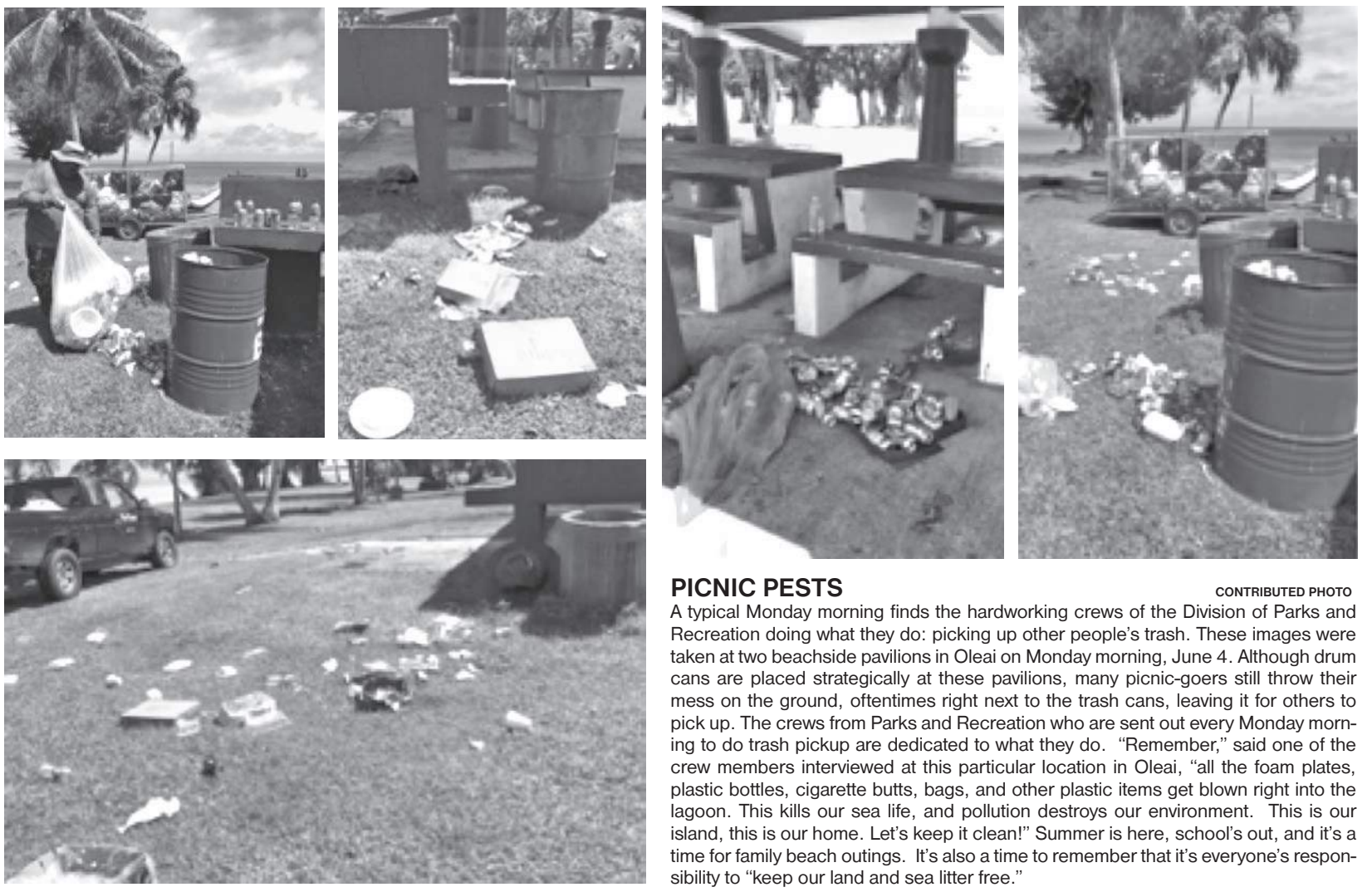
Toskas, who received a $52,000 scholarship at the University of Minnesota for the fall semester, believes it isn't college life that shapes one's life. "People have always told me how college life shapes the life that you will one day live. But I believe your childhood shapes you as well and high school is a major part of that. Because it is your friends and teachers that will help mold you into knowing who you are and for me, I've discovered who I am and who the 'future me' is at [MCS]."

Toskas will be taking up a bachelor's degree in Chemistry as her pre-Medicine course and plans to follow in the footsteps of her dad, Dr. James Toskas, a family physician at the Rota Health Center. Her mom is Jocelyn and she has a younger brother, Ari.

Class salutatorian Monica Aira Usi, who is headed to University of California-Irvine, said it was a quote by American talk show host and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey that sticks in her mind: "With every experience, you alone are painting your own canvas, thought by thought, choice by choice."

"I am my own artist who paints her own canvas through every thought, feeling, and choice. And so far, high school was a big chunky part of the canvas I am painting. While painting my canvas, I tried to find my true purpose, remained driven and inspired, avoided getting a task done with only half of my effort, and pushed myself to give my best all the times."

Rui Hua Theresa Xu Zheng, Michelle Lin Palacios, Jeff Matthew B. Melchor, Nathanael D. Lim. Cassidy Victoria C. Torres, (honorable mentions Paul Heo and Viveka Rose P. Castro), Shana Marie L. Mafnas, Sook Jun Yun, Jae Hee Lee, Geuel Christian Villacrusis, Min Jung Kim, Erika Marie R. Mendiola, and Amy Rose B. Babanting were the 2018 class' top honors.



PICNIC PESTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A typical Monday morning finds the hardworking crews of the Division of Parks and Recreation doing what they do: picking up other people's trash. These images were taken at two beachside pavilions in Oleai on Monday morning, June 4. Although drum cans are placed strategically at these pavilions, many picnic-goers still throw their mess on the ground, oftentimes right next to the trash cans, leaving it for others to pick up. The crews from Parks and Recreation who are sent out every Monday morning to do trash pickup are dedicated to what they do. "Remember," said one of the crew members interviewed at this particular location in Oleai, "all the foam plates, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, bags, and other plastic items get blown right into the lagoon. This kills our sea life, and pollution destroys our environment. This is our island, this is our home. Let's keep it clean!" Summer is here, school's out, and it's a time for family beach outings. It's also a time to remember that it's everyone's responsibility to "keep our land and sea litter free."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pacific Fleet Band to perform in Guam

ASAN, Guam—The public is invited to free performances by the U.S. Pacific

Fleet Band's contemporary music group, Big Wave, on:

- June 6: 7pm at the CHamoru Village
- June 7: 9:30am, Tamuning Senior Citizens Center; 2:30pm, at the Dededo Senior Citizens Center
- June 8: Noon at Micronesia Mall's center court in Dededo; 5pm at Guam Premier Outlets' food court in Tamuning

The band, based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is under the operational control of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The band is dedicated to providing top quality music and entertainment in support of the U.S. Navy's retention and recruiting programs, and for internal and external public relations. ***(PR)***

Saipan Chamber sets June meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be having its June general membership meeting this Wednesday, June 6, at the Saipan World Resort. This meeting highlights the annual presentation of the Chamber's Scholarship Awards. The Chamber will award six scholarships of $2,000 each. Guest speakers will be Polly Masga, general manager of Marianas Medical Center; Janel Pangelinan, claims processor with Pacifica Insurance; and Nicole Babauta, CNMI Small Business Development Center director. Reservations will be accepted at executive@saipanchamber.com for parties of four or more. ***(PR)***

Japanese class kicks off summer library institute

Last May 16, the Teen Summer Library Experience and Adult Summer Library Institute kicked off with a free Introduction to Japanese class taught by Yoko Fujioka-Kern. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library invites the community to attend the remaining classes: tomorrow, June 6, and Friday, June 8. In a series of eight classes, participants will learn the basics of Japanese such as basic pronunciation, Japanese history, culture, and simple vocabulary. Because it is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Institute, participants are able to count this class toward completing their reading log. Contact Librarian II Emily Van Weerdhuizen for more information about the free Teen and Adult Summer Library Program at emily.jkpl@gmail.com/670-235-7323. ***(PR)***

Summer hours at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be implementing summer hours from Tuesday, June 12, to Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018. The library hours will be as follows: Tuesday - Friday, 9am-5:30pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Call the library at 670-235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla on June 4-7, from 10am to 11pm.

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 9, from 5pm to 10pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Club 200 dinner on Oct. 13

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will hold its annual Club 200 fundraising dinner on Oct. 13. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the NMI chapter here in the Commonwealth. This year's theme is "Rockin' out to 40 years," a rock-and-roll celebration of 40 years of humanitarian work. There will be raffle prizes, dance and costume contests as well as food and beverages. For more information call the Chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

MVA joins Micronesian Pavilion at Taipei expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority jointly hosted the first ever Micronesian Pavilion at the Taipei Tourism Expo 2018 on May 4-7, 2018.

This year, the expo received 300,000 visitors, a 12-percent increase over last year.

The event attracted 350 exhibitors, including the MVA, Guam Visitors Bureau, and Palau Visitors Authority.

A raffle prize of a four-night, five-day Marianas package was awarded at the pre-fair press conference last April 25, which generated an estimated media value of $27,000.

In addition, an advertorial was placed in *Travel Trends News* magazine, with an additional 50,000 copies distributed at the Marianas booth

"While the MVA has participated in TTE for a number of years now, this was the first year we partnered with other tourism offices to promote Micronesia as a region," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, who attended the event. "It was an opportunity to add to our promotions of the Marianas by uniting with our colleagues from throughout the region, including sharing information about the Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands, who are our MVA partners under the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia chapter."

A VIP premiere event was held on May 3 at Westin Taipei Hotel to introduce the diving video filmed in the Marians earlier this year by Taiwanese underwater photographer, diving instructor, and travel journalist Yorko Summer, the Marianas Ocean tourism ambassador.

Attendees included travel trade media and partners, airline partners, and Summer's fans.

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, sixth from right, joins the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Taipei Tourism Expo 2018 on May 4, 2018. MVA

Attendees of the Taipei Tourism Expo 2018 on May 4-7, 2018, register with the social media fan page app at the Micronesia Pavilion to win a grand prize to the Marianas, Palau and Guam. MVA

Following the premiere, attendees had the opportunity to taste the signature Marianas cocktail "Saipan Ocean Blue" created by owner and chief bartender Alan Chen of popular restaurant Fourplay.

The Micronesia Pavilion also hosted a media roundtable on May 7 with key travel media, including *Travel Rich* Magazine, *Travel Trends News,* and *Xin Media Global Vision*.

The Micronesian Pavilion drew attention with its Palauan dances and performances singing legends Jesse & Ruby from Guam. The Micronesia Pavilion generated an estimated $54,000 in media coverage for the region. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, fifth from right, joins other staff, management, and dignitaries at the Micronesian Pavilion at the Taipei Tourism Expo 2018 on May 4-7, 2018. Pavilion included booths by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Palau Visitors Authority, and Guam Visitors Bureau. MVA

Palauan dancers and other daily performances draw a crowd to the Micronesian Pavilion at the Taipei Tourism Expo 2018 on May 4-7, 2018. MVA

NMC offers NCLEX preparatory course

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, through the CNMI Area Health Education Center, will be providing a course to help students prepare for the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses this summer.

To become a licensed nurse, candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must first pass the NCLEX-RN Exam. To qualify for the course, students must have earned at least an associate degree in nursing. The deadline to enroll in this NCLEX-RN Exam Preparatory Course is 4pm, Friday, June 15, 2018.

The CNMI AHEC will subsidize this preparatory course for those who are residents of the CNMI (i.e. U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders). Due to limited funding, the subsidy will be awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis. For those who do not qualify for a subsidy, the cost for the course is $408. Students must submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid, government-issued photo ID (i.e. passport, driver's license, mayor's ID, etc.) for verification upon registration.

The duration of the preparatory courses will be from June 18 to June 22 and from July 2 to July 6 from 8am to 12pm for a total of 40 contact hours.

To register, students can visit the CNMI AHEC office in Building P at the NMC Saipan campus, or contact Queanna Sablan, CNMI AHEC Program Manager, by phone at (670) 237-6809 or by email at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Indian, Japanese, US forces to take part in Exercise Malabar

Naval ships, aircraft and personnel from India, Japan and the United States will participate in Exercise Malabar 2018, in mid-summer 2018 off the coast of Guam.

Malabar 2018 is the first time the exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam, and the latest in a continuing series of exercises that has grown in scope and complexity over the years to address the variety of shared threats to maritime security.

The exercise will feature both ashore and at-sea training off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea.

Training will focus on high-end warfighting skillsets, subject matter expert and professional exchanges, combined carrier strike group operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, surface and anti-submarine warfare, medical operations, damage control, helicopter operations and visit, board, search and seizure operations.

Indian, Japanese, and U.S. maritime forces look forward to working together again to build upon and advance their working relationship. Each iteration of this exercise helps to increase the level of understanding between our Sailors and interoperability between our three navies. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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We need more stories about resilience to climate change

By ELIZABETH ARNOLD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Overwhelmed by climate change? It's not your fault.

Actually, you are to blame for climate change. But it's the media's fault for making you feel completely hopeless about it.

That includes me. As a correspondent for NPR 10 years ago, I did a story on Newtok, a remote Yupik community in northwest Alaska that was both sinking and eroding because of the effects of global warming. In the decade since the report aired, hundreds of national and international reporters have visited Newtok, and a dozen other Alaskan communities like it, to document the effects of climate change.

The stories all fit the same narrative. With somber music, images of houses and schools tipping precariously off cliffs and phrases like "impending doom," the reports paint a picture of tragedy and hopelessness and frame the residents as victims, climate change "refugees" whose communities are one bad storm away from ceasing to exist.

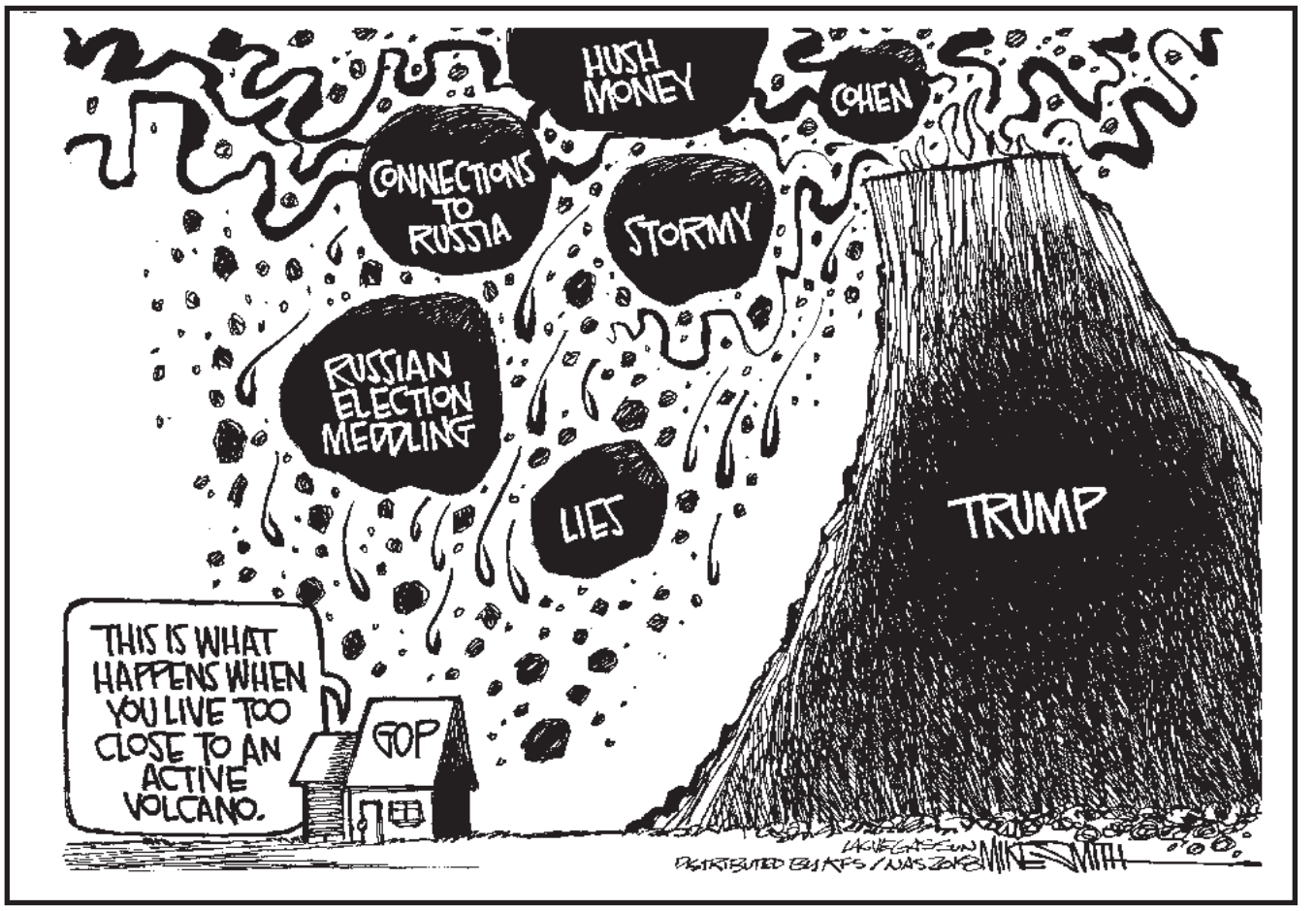
The repetition of this narrative over the last 10 years has done little to help. There is still no dedicated agency or funding at the federal level to address climate-induced relocation. And while the public is slowly accepting the reality of warming, even those identified as the most alarmed say they don't really know what to do about it.

This familiar narrative, about communities facing sea level rise and coastal erosion, fits into a larger pattern of climate change coverage. The threats posed to humans, polar bears and entire ecosystems are recounted on a daily basis, leading to what researchers call a "hope gap." With little offered in the way of action or response, people eventually tune out: "We're doomed. What's on Hulu?"

As someone who lives in Alaska and has been to the North Pole twice, I've got a pretty good idea of how bad it is. What I'd like to know more about is what people are doing to counter it. I want to know how cities are meeting emissions targets in spite of the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks. I want to know that the fastest-growing job in the country is solar panel installer.

I'm not alone, apparently. A surprising number of scholars are studying how the public responds to climate news. There's even a Media and Climate Change Observatory that keeps daily track of climate-related stories. In 2004, its founder, Max Boykoff, was among the first to identify a trend of "false balance" in the early reporting. That's the practice of pairing a contrarian view from an organization skeptical of climate change to "balance" the view of a reputable climate scientist. Several years later, Boykoff took another look and found that most news organizations had self-corrected. More recently, he called attention to a "trend of daily fear, misery and doom" that

See CLIMATE on Next Page



Why you should focus on independents

By STUART ROTHENBERG
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON—I don't trust anyone who tells me they already know the makeup of the midterm electorate. We can't possibly know who will vote in the fall, let alone how they will cast their ballots.

If I were going to focus on a handful of variables to understand how the cycle is unfolding, I'd certainly pay close attention to partisanship. But instead of focusing primarily on the percentage of Republicans and Democrats among voters, I'd pay more attention to the attitudes (and then the behavior) of self-identified independents.

I looked at recent national exit polls going back to the 2000 presidential race and found that the electorate's partisan makeup doesn't always explain an election's outcome.

Sure, there were many more Democrats than Republicans in the 2008 (+7 points) and 2012 (+6 points) exit poll samples, when Barack Obama won the White House and was re-elected comfortably. But the 2006 exits showed Democrats making up only 38 percent of the electorate—to the GOP's 36 percent—while riding a 31-seat wave to take back control of the House.

And four years later, in 2010, exit polls showed Republicans and Democrats each making up 36 percent of voters at the same time the GOP was netting 63 House seats in one of the biggest electoral waves in history.

In 2000 and 2016, both presidential election years, there were more self-identified Democrats than self-identified Republicans in the exit polls (by 4 points in 2000 and 3 points in 2016). But both times, the GOP nominee won the White House while losing the popular vote.

Obviously, if Democrats constitute a much larger percentage of the November electorate than Republicans—6 or 7 points, for example —that would be great news for House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. But how independent voters behave could well be the more useful indicator to watch.

One reason is that the percentage of self-identified independents has been inching up recently. In the 2000 and 2004 presidential contests and the 2006 midterms, independents constituted 26 percent of the electorate. But in 2012, they were 29 percent, in the 2014 midterms 28 percent, and in the 2016 presidential election 31 percent.

Obviously, those numbers change, depending in part on the appeal of the presidential nominees and the image of the parties. Some of the 2016 independents could well have been Republicans and Democrats who didn't like the two presidential nominees, both of whom had unusually high negatives.

But the more important reason to pay attention to independents is that they often reflect the direction and magnitude of partisan changes.

The two big wave elections of the last 20 years were both driven by independents, who voted Democratic by a margin of 18 points in 2006 (57 percent to 39 percent), Republican by an equally large margin in 2010 (59 percent to 41 percent). During Obama's second midterm, in 2014, independents also went Republican by a substantial margin (54 percent to 42 percent).

In 2016 and 2000, independents voted narrowly for Donald Trump (by 4 points, 46 percent to 42 percent) and for George W. Bush (by 2 points, 48 percent to 46 percent). Given how close those two contests were, it probably isn't a stretch to say that the two Republican nominees might not have won without their pluralities among self-identified independents.

The 2004 election was a bit of an outlier, I suppose. The presidential election was very close, and the electorate (according to the exit poll) had equal percentages of Democrats and Republicans. Democrat John Kerry won 49 percent of independent voters to incumbent Bush's 48 percent. And yet, Bush won reelection narrowly, by just over 2 points.

Still, the competitiveness of the overall race and the closeness of the vote among independents does seem to confirm the usefulness of looking at how these voters perform to understand the kind of election we will have.

Recent polling suggests the GOP has reason for concern about independent voters in the fall. An April 8-11 NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, for example, found independents currently preferring Democratic control of Congress by 11 points, 38 percent to 27 percent. That's a big margin.

A May 2-5 CNN/SSRS survey found independents preferred Democratic nominees for Congress over Republicans by a much closer 3-point margin, 43 percent to 40 percent. But since the 2016 exit poll showed Trump carrying this key group by 4 points, a Democratic advantage of 3 points would constitute a 7-point swing toward the Democrats.

Finally, Quinnipiac University's April 6-9 national survey offers the strangest numbers. It found Democrats with a 3-point advantage on the generic ballot among all voters but Republicans with a 2-point advantage among independents, 41 percent to 39 percent. The idea that independents are more inclined toward the GOP than the overall electorate seems difficult to accept.

The attitudes of independent voters toward the president and control of Congress should provide a window into the midterms. Keep watching those numbers, especially when they come from national media polls.

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No holiday in the United States of exhaustion

By MARY C. CURTIS
CQ-Roll Call

Roll Call columnist Mary C. Curtis has worked at The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, The Charlotte Observer *and as national correspondent for* Politics Daily. *Follow her on Twitter @mcurtisnc.*

WASHINGTON—In overworked America, with national holidays too few and far between, citizens look forward to each one. Memorial Day, especially, is a time of unity—a day to honor those who have served and sacrificed, without regard to political party or philosophy.

This year, though, that always delicate truce seemed particularly fraught.

Memorial Day 2018 resembled a Monday like too many others—the beginning of a week of sniping and fighting and irreconcilable views of what it means to be a patriot in these anything but United States. It also was a reminder that my commentary on the intersection of politics, culture and race is so spot-on, it's depressing, and that those common experiences that Americans imagined we all shared were a mirage—if they were ever real.

Memorial Day is supposed to be about the veterans, those who would not let something as petty as politics stand in the way of fellowship. Then why has a Republican candidate refused to back down from his claim that to be a military veteran and a Democrat is to suffer from some sort of mental disorder?

Wisconsin Republican Kevin Nicholson, a former Democrat who is running for Senate, said in early May that he questioned the "cognitive thought process" of military veterans in the Democratic Party. "Because the bottom line is, they're signing up to defend the Constitution that their party is continually dragging through the mud," he said. Nicholson earned criticism from his own party for the statement and should be forced to walk through Arlington National Cemetery and note how political party is no requirement for inclusion.

President Donald Trump, following tradition, did visit Arlington on Memorial Day to honor the fallen who came from "every generation, from towering cities and windswept prairies, from privilege and from poverty." He said "they were all brothers and sisters in arms. And they were all united then, as they are united now, forever, by their undying love of our great country."

Earlier, though, he had stepped on that fine message with a tweet that said: "Those who died for our great country would be very happy and proud at how well our country is doing today. Best economy in decades, lowest unemployment numbers for Blacks and Hispanics EVER (& women in 18years), rebuilding our Military and so much more. Nice!"

Retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Barack Obama, answered with a tweet of his own: "This day, of all days of the year, should not be about any one of us. No matter how prestigious or powerful, no matter how successful we perceive ourselves to be. Rather, this day should be about those who gave their lives so that we could live ours in freedom."

Even a perfect reaction to the day could not have erased the president's history, which includes a continuing feud with veteran and former prisoner of war Sen. John McCain and disrespectful interactions with Gold Star families, particularly those of color.

One person the president had praised was Roseanne Barr, an entertainer whose show—instead of being a comedy to bring Americans together to laugh—turned into a political cudgel that supporters and detractors found useful to wield. After Barr's rebooted ABC show drew huge ratings, Trump congratulated the comedian, privately in a phone call and publicly at an Ohio rally, for "unbelievable" ratings for a show "about us."

Barr herself told ABC's "Good Morning America" in March: "I really hope that it opens up civil conversation between people instead of just of mud-slinging. I really do because I think we need to be more civilized in that."

The politically savvy Trump, at first, did not comment on the far-from-civilized, racist, holiday-week tweet that got Roseanne, the show, canceled or the actress's wild conspiratorial musings that came before and after. (In the case of the racist trope that dehumanizes African-Americans by calling them apes, Barr reached into her own and America's shameful past.)

But he could not help making it about himself, and on Wednesday, he tweeted: "Bob Iger of ABC called Valerie Jarrett to let her know that 'ABC does not tolerate comments like those' made by Roseanne Barr. Gee, he never called President Donald J. Trump to apologize for the HORRIBLE statements made and said about me on ABC. Maybe I just didn't get the call?"

Though Barr had defenders—most using the same deflection as the president, ignoring the TV star's racist statements to change the subject and focus on the sins of others—the reaction was relatively muted.

Some Trump voters had warmed to a sympathetic and sanitized TV portrayal of a working-class white family that welcomed mixed-race and gender-fluid grandchildren and focused on the jobs-and-economy narrative that conveniently left out the racist and misogynistic Trump statements a voter would have had to overlook or condone because—immigration. But many of them, no doubt, walked away from the Barr train wreck anyone on Twitter could see coming, and from her actions that ironically put a lot of working people out of work.

Barr joins the Billy Bush club, named for another entertainer who paid the price for being Trump-adjacent, while the man leading a reality-show presidency with real-life consequences has moved to exhorting his rally crowds to heckle Democrats and the media and to join in a call and response about criminal "animals" coming into the United States.

Maybe America has not yet earned the right to relax, if a holiday is the occasion to ignore the tears in the American fabric without truly doing the work of mending them.

Trump just poured ice water on the economy

By JON HEALEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Macroeconomic Advisers, a research firm focused on the U.S. economy, reported Wednesday that the U.S. trade deficit in goods was "much narrower than expected," implying "substantially more" U.S. exports in the second quarter. So it revised its projection for economic growth sharply upward, to a robust 3.6 percent increase in GDP.

Achieving and sustaining that kind of growth is a key goal for President Donald Trump. So naturally, on Thursday the Trump administration took a dramatic step to disrupt U.S. exports and pour ice water on the economy.

That would be imposing 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and 10 percent tariffs on aluminum imports from every major (and minor) metals-producing country around the world except Argentina, Australia and, in the case of steel, Korea, effective Friday. The move turns a threat and negotiating ploy into an action, which will bring real consequences in the form of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports. And it won't be on U.S. steel and aluminum—it will be on Harley Davidson motorcycles, California almonds, Levis and Jack Daniels.

On the plus side, if unemployment ticks back up, the Federal Reserve won't feel as much pressure to raise interest rates.

This isn't just America First—this is America Alone. Imposing tariffs against a specific country that's been bending global trade rules can make sense, and there's a process for doing that under the trade agreements the U.S. has signed (and, ahem, championed). But claiming that imports from around the world are damaging national security? That's raw protectionism, and previous efforts along those lines simply haven't worked. See, just for example, President Reagan's steel and aluminum tariffs and President George W. Bush's steel tariffs.

And even if the tariffs manage to shift some jobs and production back to the United States, as may be happening with solar panels, they still act as a tax on consumers and a drag on the economy. That's why the real issue isn't jobs created within the targeted industry, but net jobs created (or lost) by all sectors affected.

Once you start down the road of protecting a domestic industry for national security reasons, it's hard to stop. And the message it sends to world leaders is that they should ignore the trading rules the U.S. worked so hard to spread—because we're ignoring them. That includes NAFTA, by the way, which we are in the middle of renegotiating. Talk about bad faith.

Jon Healey is the deputy editorial page editor for the Los Angeles Times.

CLIMATE

From Page 10

leaves audiences feeling powerless.

This doesn't mean we should stop reporting the terrifying realities. But it does mean we need to start telling stories about effective responses: practical, replicable examples of how individuals, businesses and governments are tackling climate change. It may smack of advocacy, but what self-respecting public health reporter would do a story about an epidemic without including information about an available vaccine or how to avoid infection?

Take Newtok, for example. That community is not waiting and watching helplessly as homes are erased by the sea. Quite the opposite is true: It's a place where indigenous people are adapting in order to stay in a region where they've managed to weather wrenching environmental and cultural change for thousands of years.

Newtok residents have spent the last decade raising money, navigating a bureaucratic morass and collaborating with everyone from the local Lions Club to the Department of Defense in order to move just nine and a half miles away. Their new community is taking shape on firm volcanic rock. It's called Mertarvik, which means "place to get water," because it has a fresh water spring, something the old site lacks. Community members have built seven energy-efficient homes. They're building another four this summer, and 13 refurbished military barracks are scheduled to arrive by barge. State agencies will soon be required to fund a new school, an airstrip and public utilities.

The process of relocating a community is painfully incremental, but it's one that should be documented for the same reason so many news organizations sent reporters to Newtok in the first place. Although Newtok's plight was broadcast as a harbinger of tragic things to come, its response might serve as a model for the coastal and island communities around the world facing the same threat.

If we journalists were able to self-correct for false balance, surely we can self-correct for an overly narrow narrative that amounts to a steady drip of catastrophic predictions. Newtok, a community "doomed" by climate change, has figured out how to adapt—one innovative idea, one grant, one barge load at a time. It will not cease to exist. In fact, life might even be a little bit better on higher, more solid ground and with fresh water. It's a story worth telling.

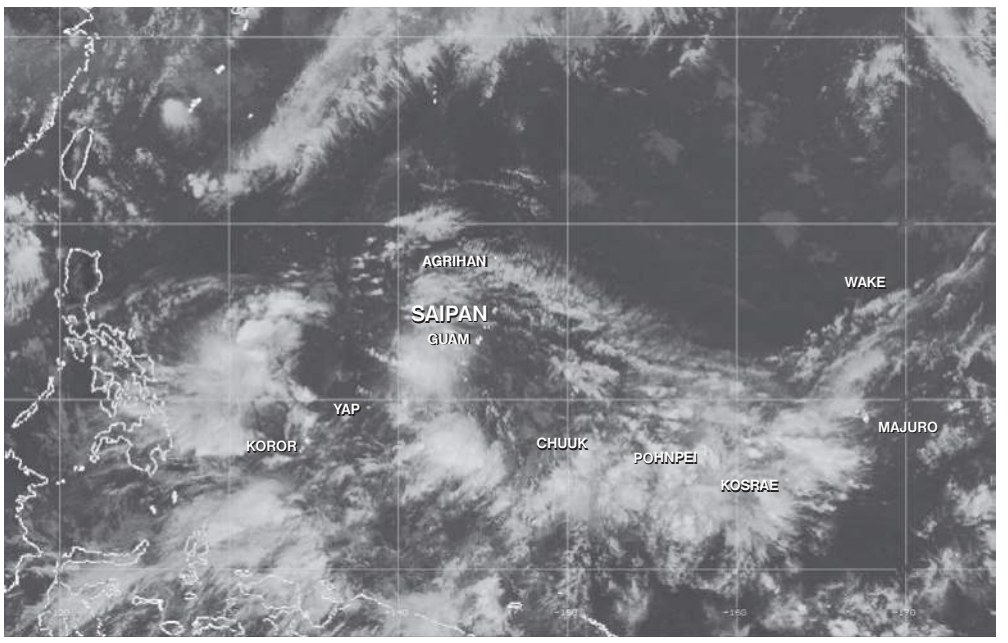
Elizabeth Arnold is a Shorenstein fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and a journalism professor at University of Alaska Anchorage. She was previously a correspondent for National Public Radio.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:10 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly west of the islands. The VAD wind profile indicates east-southeast winds of 14 to 24 knots through the lowest 3 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 4 to 7 foot combined seas composed mainly of northeast trade-wind waves and swell, however there is also a new south component from the monsoon trough.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 46°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	100° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
London	Cloudy	70° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 81°
Melbourne	Sunny	64° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
New York	Showers	76° / 57°
Osaka	Showers	73° / 68°
Paris	Thunderstorm	77° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	88° / 64°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	60° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 64°
Tokyo	Showers	73° / 66°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	80° / 58°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
6:53 AM	LOW TIDE	1.18
10:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.49
6:18 PM	LOW TIDE	0.13

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:445 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:58 AM	11:53 PM
Wednesday	-	11:47 AM	-
Thursday	12:33 AM	12:36 PM	-
Friday	1:13 AM	1:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:53 AM	2:17 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

7SENSES launches music video filmed in Marianas

7SENSES, members of China's famous girl group SNH48, have launched their latest music video, which was filmed in the Marianas and is being shown at Skechers locations across China.

"Kiki's Secret" is the first video produced abroad for the group and highlights signature locations on Saipan, including Managaha, Micro Beach, Banzai Cliff, Beach Road, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The video, a co-op promotion of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Century Tours, also includes a UTV jungle tour and driving tour of the island.

SNH48 was first founded in 2012 as one of the earliest recruited girl groups in China. The group has officially released 20 popular EPs with an overall sales record of 4 million. The group has gained numerous industrial acclaims, including Best Group in 2016 CNR Music Radio Top Awards, 2016 Shanghai Influence Awards, 2018 China Top Ten Music Awards and other domestic awards. 7SENSES is the first international group from SNH48.

"The stunning natural beauty of the Marianas, the wide range of activities available, and our proximity to Asia continue to be a major draw for film projects, including music videos, television shows, commercials, and more," said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo. "In the last few months, the MVA has negotiated several projects with major recording artists in Korea and now China, and this is promoting our destination to their wide fan bases. We will continue to pursue these types of projects, which give the MVA a tremendous return on investment."

Magazine *Mina* also covered the 7SENSE trip to the Marianas in a special feature. ***(MVA)***

China girl group 7SENSE films their music video "Kiki's Secret" on Jan. 17, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. MVA

China girl group 7SENSE films their music video "Kiki's Secret" on Jan. 18, 2018, at Micro Beach. MVA

China girl group 7SENSE take the ferry to Managaha to film their music video "Kiki's Secret" on Jan. 19, 2018. MVA

NMC to host info session on June 14

Individuals who are interested in furthering their education are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free information session on Thursday, June 14, 2018. The event will cover information on the admissions application process, financial aid, class registration, and academic programs and services.

The info session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at NMC's Cafe Proa at the college's As Terlaje campus. Cafe Proa is located near the NMC Bookstore.

Attendees of the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2018 semester, a savings of about $75. The first day of classes will be on Aug. 20, 2018, but interested applicants are encouraged to apply early to register for courses and for financial aid.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associates of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2018 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

House OKs new building code

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

During a session on Tinian, the House of Representatives adopted a Senate bill that sets a new building code for the CNMI.

The House voted to support Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-46 after Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) amended it to authorize the Department of Public Works to amend the CNMI building code.

Igisomar's S.B. 20-46 adopts the 2015 International Building Code, replacing the current CNMI building code, which is based on the 1988 edition of the Uniform Building Code as promulgated by the International Conference of Building Officials.

The bill recognizes that the UCB, which was later replaced by the International Building Code in 2000, is one of three model building codes that are collectively known as the International Code Council.

Currently, the ICBO no longer exists, and the UBC has been stopped since 1997.

S.B. 20-46, if enacted, initially adopts the 2015 edition of the IBC; however, according to a previous amendment by Igitol as chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the bill was amended to reflect the 2012 version as well.

The amendment was made in mid-February 2018.

The bill includes notices to the public of the bill's enactment. It requires the Building Safety Division under DPW to publish the adoption of the IBC as the new building code of the NMI as well as to post a notice of its enactment.

S.B. 20-46 provides that the division would also post any new updates to the IBC.

The bill further specifies that a transitional period would commence after the bill becomes law. The transitional period would be for 90 days, in which either the UBC 1988 or the IBC 2015 may be used for projects. Following the transition, only the IBC 2015 would be used.

Guam woman gets prison sentence for bank scam

Ruby J. Ngirmekur, 38, was sentenced in U.S. District Court of Guam last Wednesday by designated judge Ramona V. Manglona to 33 months in prison and three years of supervised release for conspiracy to commit financial institution fraud.

The court also ordered her to pay $13,090 in restitution and a $100 assessment fee, and to perform 50 hours of community service.

According to Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Ngirmekur and others participated in an ATM debit-fraud and check-fraud scheme involving Bank of Guam funds and checks drawn from other financial institutions spanning from May 2014 to July 2014.

As part of the conspiracy, the defendant deposited fraudulent checks into third-party Bank of Guam accounts via ATM transactions, and then withdrew funds based upon those checks.

For the entire period of the conspiracy, the defendant and her co-conspirators attempted to obtain $95,100 from Bank of Guam by depositing over 120 fraudulent checks drawn from closed and nonsufficient funds accounts at Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Bank of Hawaii, and Navy Federal Credit Union.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Guam Police Department, and prosecuted by Marivic P. David, assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam. ***(PR)***

Business

Business economists worry about possible recession in 2020

WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of top business economists believes the major tax cuts President Donald Trump pushed through Congress will give a significant boost to economic growth this year and next year. But they worry that by 2020, the country could be entering a new recession.

The National Association for Business Economics says in its latest quarterly outlook that its panel of 45 economists expects the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, to expand 2.8 percent this year. That is down slightly from the panel's March forecast, which put GDP growth this year at 2.9 percent.

The NABE economists are "slightly less optimistic about the U.S. economy in 2018 than they were three months ago," says NABE vice president Kevin Swift, chief economist at the American Chemistry Council.

Part of the drop-off in optimism reflects growing worries about what Trump's get-tough approach on trade might do to U.S. growth prospects.

Three-fourths of the NABE panel believes that current trade policies will have a negative impact on the economy. Trump last week imposed penalty tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from major U.S. trading partners — the European Union, Canada and Mexico — and he has threatened tariffs on up to $200 billion in Chinese imports, moves that could trigger a global trade war as the targeted nations pledge to retaliate.

The NABE forecasting panel was upbeat on the near-term impacts of the $1.5 trillion tax cut that Congress passed in December. The median expectation is that the cuts in individual and corporate taxes will boost growth by 0.4 percentage points this year and 0.3 percentage points next year.

The forecasters said the economy should grow 2.7 percent in 2019 after their projected 2.8 percent GDP growth this year. Both projections would be up from 2.3 percent growth in 2017 and the 2.1 percent average annual gains the country has seen since the Great Recession ended in 2009.

However, the Trump administration is projecting a bigger boost, forecasting that the GDP will grow by 3 percent or better over the next decade as the economy gains momentum from the positive impacts of the president's economic program of lower taxes, deregulation and tougher trade policies aimed at reducing U.S. trade deficits.

In this Friday, Oct. 6, 2017, file photo, a worker helps build an apartment and retail complex in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Australia's largest bank to pay $531M compliance fine

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the nation's largest bank, said on Monday it has agreed to pay a 700 million Australian dollar ($531 million) fine for failing to comply with measures to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing.

The bank negotiated the fine with the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Center, the government's financial intelligence agency better known as AUSTRAC, to resolve a civil Federal Court case that began in August. The agreement is subject to court approval.

The bank has also agreed to pay AUSTRAC's AU$2.5 million legal costs.

The bank admitted that it was late in reporting more than 53,500 suspicious transactions exceeding AU$10,000 between 2012 and 2015. Each offense was punishable by a fine of up to AU$21 million.

The bank blamed a single software error in its deposit-taking automated teller machines and argued those violations should be treated as one rather than as a series of individual offenses.

The suspicious transactions were conducted by people connected to the international drug trade and the bank suspected some transactions may have been associated with terrorism financing.

Matt Comyn, who became the bank's chief executive officer in April, said in a statement that court approval of the agreement would bring certainty to one of the most significant issues the bank has faced.

"While not deliberate, we fully appreciate the seriousness of the mistakes we made. Our agreement today is a clear acknowledgement of our failures and is an important step toward moving the bank forward. On behalf of Commonwealth Bank, I apologize to the community for letting them down," Comyn said.

The statement added that it would work closely with AUSTRAC on a constructive approach to combating financial crime and protecting the integrity of the financial system.

The bank's share price rose more than 2 percent to AU$70.20 after the fine was announced.

The benchmark S&P/ASX200 index climbed 0.6 percent at 6,026.1 points, within the first hour of trade, while the broader All Ordinaries index rose 0.5 percent to 6,137.1 points.

The government welcomed the agreement.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said the bank's disregard for its obligations allowed criminals to exploit its systems and put the Australian community at risk.

Treasurer Scott Morrison said that the Australian public expected the financial sector to better protect itself from exploitation by criminals and individuals associated with terrorist groups.

"Complying with the law is non-negotiable, especially when it comes to our largest financial institutions that Australians rely on for their homes and businesses and the government is serious about enforcing any breaches," Morrison said.

Never surprise your boss

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Despite having a stellar employment record, I am concerned about two incidents mentioned during my recent performance review. Both involved accusations which were completely unfair.

Several months ago, our human resources manager told me that I was suspected of harassing another employee. She refused to reveal the nature of the offense or the person's name, but said there would be an investigation. This didn't worry me because I have never harassed anyone.

After that discussion, I was never contacted again. However, during my review, my manager indicated that HR had informed him about this allegation. He gave me a lecture about proper workplace conduct even though I had done nothing wrong.

The second problem occurred when another group requested my help with a project. Because they were being billed for my time, they initially planned to use me for only 20 hours. After I discovered some major flaws, however, the project manager said to take all the time I needed. During my review, I was told that he had complained about the extra charges.

Although these events didn't lower my performance rating, I'm afraid they may have harmed my reputation with my manager. How can I avoid such problems in the future?

A: "Never surprise your boss" is an old saying which provides excellent advice. This adage simply means that you should always give your manager a heads-up about problematic or disturbing developments. Advance notice not only keeps the boss from being blindsided, but also allows you to control how negative news is delivered.

In both these situations, you neglected to share important information with your manager. As a result, you missed the opportunity to provide your version of events before others offered theirs. Because people's perceptions are usually shaped by the first account they hear, you automatically placed yourself at a disadvantage.

Like many employees, you also overlooked the fact that managers do talk to each other. By anticipating that the HR representative and project leader might convey their concerns, you could probably have avoided these unpleasant surprises.

Q: Although I have worked in business for many years, I would like to become an academic advisor at the university level. As an undergraduate, I enjoyed tutoring people, and I have also done volunteer work with high school students. How should I go about starting this new career?

A: Because radical transitions seldom happen overnight, such a dramatic change requires a "stepping stone" approach. Just as you might plot your steps to safely cross a river, so you must identify a logical sequence of events to shift from one career to another.

For example, one initial strategy involves using current skills to obtain a position in the desired setting. So if your background is in accounting, you might look for a position in a university finance department. By successfully transitioning to the academic world, you would have moved one step closer to your goal.

But before making any permanent changes, take time to thoroughly understand your preferred field. Explore educational requirements, research possible employers, and conduct informational interviews with academic advisors. Before crossing this river, you need to be sure that you'll be happier on the other side.

Nation

Congress faces immigration showdown, tension on tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)—This was supposed to be the quiet time on Capitol Hill, but Congress returns to work Monday facing a showdown in the House over immigration while Senate Republicans are trying to stop an all-out trade war after President Donald Trump's decision to impose import tariffs on close U.S. allies.

Tensions are running particularly high as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is threatening to cancel the traditional August recess as he fights Democratic opposition to GOP priorities in a show of busy-work before the midterm election.

It's shaping up to be far from the typical summer slowdown when legislating usually makes way for campaigning.

"Another summer, another heavy work load," tweeted Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, as he pushed to confirm nominations. "NOW is the time to vote on Fridays (even wknds!)." The Senate often is not in session on Fridays.

Congress faces a few should-do items in the weeks ahead. Topping the agenda is passage of the annual defense bill, which includes pay raises for the troops. It has already cleared the House. The Senate could begin consideration of its defense bill this week. But the Senate version carries a warning to Trump with a trade provision to block any White House plan to lift penalties on the China-based telecommunications company ZTE, which faces trade law violations over selling sensitive technologies to U.S. adversaries.

AP

A young girl places an item with a collection of shoes and toys prior to a Rally For Our Children event to protest a new "zero-tolerance" immigration policy that has led to the separation of families, Thursday, May 31, 2018, in San Antonio.

Trump's moves on trade are expected to consume conversations among Senate Republicans this week. They're worried about a wider trade war spiking prices for home-state businesses and consumers if Trump imposes steel and aluminum tariffs, as planned, on imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

Republicans will be making the case to the administration that the tariffs could dampen the economic gains from the GOP tax cuts and sour the mood among voters as lawmakers are campaigning to protect the Republican majority in Congress.

Some Republicans are also hoping Trump simply changes his mind and doesn't follow through with it. But aides said others may be signing on to a bill from Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, that would subject all trade actions by the executive branch, including tariffs, to congressional approval. Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said he would support a similar move in the House. "Congress has shared our responsibility when it comes to trade with the executive branch over the last couple of decades, and I think that's something that we need to re-evaluate," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Meanwhile, House Republicans face a self-imposed deadline Thursday for resolving an immigration standoff between GOP centrists who are forcing a vote on legislation to protect young immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children and conservatives who want stricter immigration enforcement with money for Trump's border wall.

The centrists want to provide a way for the young immigrants to become permanent residents, which can lead to citizenship. Conservatives are opposed to creating a new pathway to staying in the U.S. permanently, equating it with granting amnesty to lawbreakers.

Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., are trying to craft a Republican-led bill as a compromise between the factions, but it's difficult.

House leaders plan a two-hour private meeting of GOP lawmakers Thursday morning to hash out whether talks among the party's factions have produced an immigration compromise that can win broad support. Underscoring the sensitivity of the session, staff is to be excluded.

They're trying to prevent the moderates from joining with Democrats to pass the "Dreamer" protections, which polls suggest are popular, but which would be a setback for GOP leaders and expose the majority to complaints from the conservative base.

Without a deal, the moderates say they'll push ahead with enough signatures on a so-called discharge petition to force the vote over the leadership's objections.

Hurd said moderates have the votes already, but are "engaged in conversations to figure out ... is there another path. I don't believe that there is."

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., said in an interview last week that he saw a 50-50 chance of those talks succeeding. He warned that if they didn't bear fruit, he and his supporters "fully expect" to continue pushing their petition.

Police investigate killing of 4th professional near Phoenix

PHOENIX (AP)—A fourth professional found fatally shot in a three-day span has been identified by Arizona detectives as a 72-year-old counselor and life coach, but authorities were not immediately linking his death to that of the other three.

Police in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale said Sunday that Marshall Levine was found shot inside an office building shortly after midnight Saturday. The Arizona Republic reported Levine worked as a hypnotherapist and life coach. He also provided marriage and divorce counseling.

On Thursday, Dr. Steven Pitt, a prominent forensic psychiatrist who assisted in high-profile murder cases including the JonBenet Ramsey mystery in Colorado, and a notorious Phoenix serial killer investigation, was found dead near Scottsdale. Witnesses reported hearing a loud argument and gunfire outside Pitt's office.

Police said the killings Friday of paralegals Veleria Sharp, 48, and Laura Anderson, 49, were related to the Pitt shooting, but were still trying to determine exactly what linked the three victims.

"We don't know the relationships or the connections," said Sgt. Ben Hoster.

How, or if, Levine's death also had ties to the killings of the two women and Pitt was still being investigated, Scottsdale police told The Republic.

Phoenix police say Pitt's killer was described as a bald man wearing a dark-colored hat with a short brim. Police released a sketch of the suspect in the three killings.

Sharp and Anderson were shot Friday inside a law office. Police say one of the women managed to walk to an intersection to seek help despite a gunshot wound to her head. She was taken to a hospital where she died.

Officers followed a blood trail back to the office and found the other woman. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hoster said there was no indication that family members of the victims were in danger.

"We're asking the public to remain vigilant and to call us if they notice anything out of the ordinary," Hoster said.

In the Levine case, Scottsdale police received a call Saturday about a man found fatally shot inside an office. Hoster did not identify the caller but said the person knew the victim.

The killing occurred in an office park that houses mostly therapists and counselors.

Pitt, 59, assisted in the investigation of the 1996 death of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey, who was found dead at her home in Boulder, Colorado.

A decade later, he helped Phoenix police in the Baseline Killer investigation as they sought a man who was later convicted of killing nine people.

The website of Burt/Feldman/Grenier, the law firm that employed Sharp and Anderson, says it practices divorce, child support and other aspects of family law litigation and mediation.

ACROSS THE NATION

Dallas woman says she killed husband because he beat the cat

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas police say a 47-year-old woman has told detectives she shot and killed her husband because he had been beating the family cat. Authorities say Mary Harrison has been arrested and jailed on a murder charge in the slaying of her 49-year-old husband Dexter Harrison. She's being held on $100,000 bond. Mary Harrison told authorities that the shooting Saturday occurred during an argument. Dexter Harrison was taken to a hospital where he died. In a statement Sunday, Dallas police say Harrison told officers that her husband had been beating the cat. Neighbors say the family cat recently went missing, Mary Harrison had posted signs about it disappearing and the pet eventually returned.

Motorcyclist dies in crash with bear, SUV in central Oregon

WARM SPRINGS, Ore. (AP)—Authorities say a 39-year-old off-duty firefighter was killed when his motorcycle struck a large bear on a Central Oregon highway and he was hit by another vehicle. Oregon State Police says Rhett Larsen, of Bend, died at the scene of Saturday night's crash on Highway 26 near Warm Springs. The Bend Fire Department on social media Sunday called the fire engineer a "respected leader" and that he is deeply missed. Authorities say Larsen struck the bear, which also died, when it ran onto the highway. Police say Larsen was thrown from his motorcycle and hit by a Ford SUV driving in the opposite direction. The SUV driver was flown to a hospital with undisclosed injuries. State police did not comment on her condition Sunday. The collision closed the highway for several hours.

Dog found dead in carrier during Delta layover near Detroit

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP)—Delta Air Lines is investigating the death of an 8-year-old pet dog during a layover at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, en route from Phoenix to Newark, New Jersey. The Pomeranian, called Alejandro, was found dead Wednesday morning in its carrier in a cargo facility at the airport, southwest of Detroit in Romulus. "When he landed here in Michigan, he was alive at 6:30 a.m., and then at 8:20, he wasn't moving and it just doesn't make any sense to me," owner Michael Dellagrazie told WDIV-TV. "We lost a family member. That's exactly what happened, and somebody has to be responsible for it. He was in their care and they didn't take care of him." Delta told WXYZ-TV that a flight attendant checked on Alejandro about 6 a.m. The attendant checked again about two hours later and the dog was dead. The airline is "conducting a thorough review of the situation to find out more about why this may have occurred to ensure it doesn't happen again," Delta said in a statement.

Asia

Biographer: Animosity toward US drives Philippine president

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

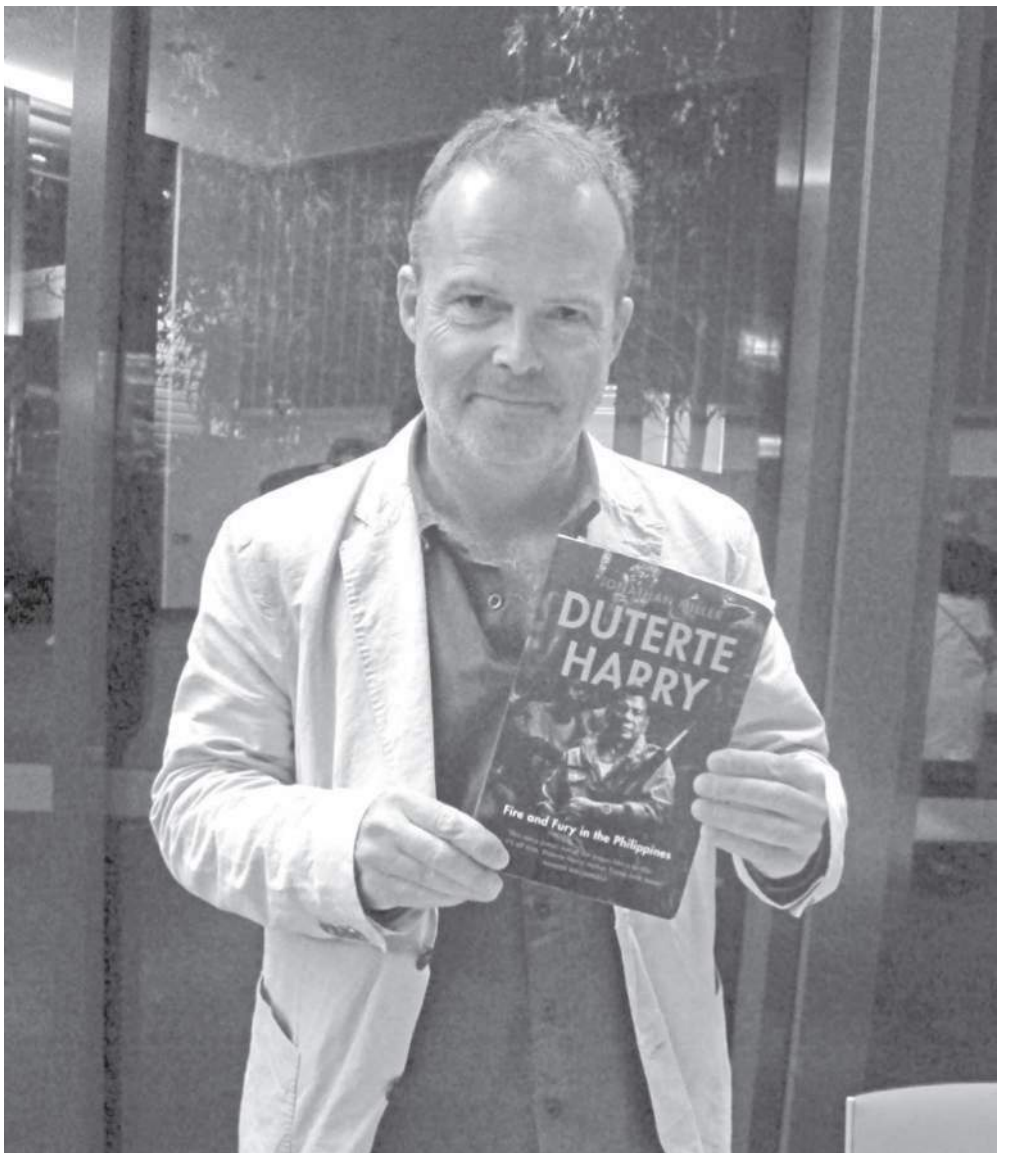
CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The author of the first biography of Rodrigo Duterte says the maverick Philippine president was gravitating toward China partly because of a personal animosity toward the United States and its criticisms of his human rights record.

Jonathan Miller, Asia correspondent for Britain's Channel 4 News, spent more than a year interviewing Duterte's family, Cabinet members, supporters and critics to compile a biography largely in the words of Filipinos. It's called "Duterte Harry," a nickname Duterte earned during 22 years as the gun-toting mayor of southern Davao city. It's also a play on the Clint Eastwood movie title "Dirty Harry."

The British journalist said Duterte would like the Philippines to be part of new sphere that included China and Russia and abandon the old alliances including with the United States, the country's former colonial power.

China's greatest appeal to the 72-year-old Philippine leader for a realigned relationship was money, Miller said.

"The Chinese have actually promised a lot of investment and although Duterte in the past has not been known for his infrastructure work, there are few countries in Southeast Asia that are in more need of investment and infrastructure than the Philippines — they need rail and road transport desperately," Miller told The Associated Press in Canberra during a book signing.



AP
Author Jonathan Miller displays his biography of Rodrigo Duterte at a book-signing event on Thursday, May 31, 2018, at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

"He's looking for a lot of Chinese money in that, but he's also doing it to punish the U.S. and he's got a personal chip on his shoulder over the United States, which has criticized him for his human rights abuses," Miller said.

"He values China because they don't criticize his human rights stuff," he added.

Many Filipinos are unsettled by Duterte moving away from the United States and closer to China, which aggressively contests the Philippines' territorial claims in the South China Sea.

"The move toward China alarms a lot of Filipinos who love America more than any other country in the world," Miller said.

Duterte's gripes with the United States include being refused a visa, apparently because of State Department alarm at death squads that operated in Davao when he was mayor, Miller said.

The International Criminal Court is conducting a preliminary probe into extrajudicial killings during Duterte's signature war-on-drugs policy despite the president withdrawing his country from the court's jurisdiction. A Filipino lawyer has complained that the anti-drugs campaign could amount to crimes against humanity.

Miller suspects the slayings of suspected drug users and pushers "represents the largest loss of life in Southeast Asia since Pol Pot," the leader of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime that killed millions in Cambodia in the late 1970s.

More than 4,000 mostly urban poor suspects have been killed by police — a staggering death toll officials blame on the suspects fighting back. Human rights watchdogs have cited much higher numbers of fatalities, which the government disputes.

Pushing the envelope: Why was Kim's letter for Trump so big?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is known for pushing the envelope with threats and bluster as he seeks to leverage his nuclear weapons program into security and economic benefits for his country. But lately he's gained notoriety for his envelopes alone.

President Donald Trump on Friday declared that his on-and-off summit with Kim was on again. The announcement came after Trump hosted a senior North Korean envoy at the White House and he delivered a personal letter from Kim that was inside a white envelope nearly as large as a folded newspaper.

Trump has not yet revealed what was written in the letter, but he sure seemed happy to get it. A photo showed a grinning Trump holding up the envelope alongside Kim Yong Chol, the most senior North Korean to visit the White House in 18 years, as they posed in the Oval Office in front of a portrait of Thomas Jefferson.

The photo made rounds on social media, where theories abound about why Kim would have sent Trump what seemed like a comically oversized letter.

Did Kim, a third-generation hereditary leader, think Trump would share his love for lavish gestures and things grandiose? After spending months trading insults and war threats with him, has Kim learned that the way to influence Trump is to appeal to his ego—something South Korean President Moon Jae-in seemed to try in April when he openly endorsed Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize?

No one outside North Korea likely knows the real reason for the letter's size. It could just be that's how Kim likes it.

Moon, who lobbied hard for nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim, received a letter of similar size from Kim during February's Winter Olympics in which he expressed a desire for an inter-Korean summit.

Kim's to letter to Moon was personally delivered by Kim's sister, who attended the Olympics as a special envoy, and was covered by a blue folder emblazoned with a golden seal.

Analysts say the gesture of sending the letter itself is part of the meticulous steps North Korea is taking to present Kim as a legitimate international statesman who is reasonable and capable of negotiating solutions and making deals.

Following a provocative 2017 in which his engineers tested a purported thermonuclear warhead and long-range missiles that could target American cities, Kim has engaged in a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent months in what's seen as an attempt to break out of isolation and obtain relief from sanctions decimating his country's economy.

While trying to communicate its willingness to embrace Western diplomatic norms, Pyongyang has put in painstaking efforts to maintain reciprocity with Washington and Seoul, said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul.

Kim Yong Chol's trip to Washington was clearly a response to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's travelling to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice in recent weeks for pre-summit negotiations with Kim. Likewise, Kim's letter to Trump would have been a reciprocal response to Trump's own letter to Kim on May 24 that temporarily shelved the highly anticipated meeting, Yang said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nearly half of Afghan children are not in school

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nearly half of Afghanistan's children are not attending school because of war, poverty and other factors, a new report showed Sunday. The study, released by the Education Ministry and the U.N. children's agency, said that 3.7 million, or 44 percent, of all school-age children are not attending school. It marks the first time since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 that the rate of attendance has declined, following years of steady gains in education for boys as well as girls, who were banned from attending school under the Taliban. The survey says girls account for 60 percent of those being denied an education. "Business as usual is not an option for Afghanistan if we are to fulfil the right to education for every child," Adele Khodr, UNICEF's Afghanistan representative, said in a statement. "When children are not in school, they are at an increased danger of abuse, exploitation and recruitment." The Taliban have seized several districts across the country in recent years, as the U.S.-backed government has struggled to combat the insurgency. A long-running financial crisis, exacerbated by widespread corruption, has further hindered government efforts to expand access to education.

Afghanistan's top religious council bans suicide attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's top religious body has issued a ruling, or a fatwa, declaring suicide attacks "haram" — forbidden under Islamic law. The Afghan Ulema Council, which includes Muslim clerics, scholars and men of authority in religion and law from across the country, issued the fatwa at a gathering on Monday in Kabul that hosted around 2,000 council members. The council appealed on both the Afghan government forces and the Taliban and other militants to halt the fighting and agree on a cease-fire. It also called for peace negotiations between the two sides. It's the first time the council has issued such an appeal. Ghofranullah Murad, a member of the council, read out a written statement from the gathering that said innocent Afghan men, women and children are the victims of war.

US urges China to release Tiananmen crackdown death toll

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has urged China to disclose the details of people killed, detained or missing during the Chinese military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square 29 years ago. Pompeo released a statement on the eve of the anniversary on Monday of the June 4, 1989, suppression of demonstrations that also called on China to release those who have been jailed for their efforts to keep the memory of the crackdown alive. Hundreds if not thousands of unarmed protesters and onlookers were killed late on June 3 and the early hours of June 4, 1989, after China's communist leaders ordered the military to retake Tiananmen Square from the student-led demonstrators. Commemoration of the Tiananmen events remains taboo in mainland China.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel to deduct from Palestinian funds for arson damages

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel says it plans to deduct from tax funds it collects for the Palestinians the amount needed to compensate Israelis living near the Gaza Strip who have come under a wave of arson attacks. Israel has been battling fires caused by kites rigged with incendiary devices launched by Palestinians in Gaza that have damaged forests and torched agricultural fields. The fires have disrupted daily life in communities near the Gaza Strip. The kites have been flown by Gazans who have staged weekly protests since late March during which more than 115 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli army fire. The statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Sunday didn't disclose how much would be deducted. Israeli Army Radio put the cost of damages at 5 million shekels ($1.4 million).

German president apologizes to gays for decades of injustice

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's president has asked gays for forgiveness for decades of suffering and injustice they endured as a result of repressive laws in Germany in the Nazi era and after World War II. Frank-Walter Steinmeier spoke Sunday in a ceremony marking the persecution of gays by the Hitler regime. The dpa news agency quoted Steinmeier as saying that the harsh treatment continued in the post-war era, in both parts of a then-divided Germany, where homosexuality for years remained a criminal offense. The president says that "this is why I'm asking for forgiveness today, for all the suffering and injustice, and the silence that followed." Steinmeier says he wants to reassure "all gays, lesbians and bisexuals, all queers, trans- and intersexuals" that they are protected in today's Germany.

Building collapses in Kenya's capital; police report 3 dead

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Three people have been killed when a building collapsed in Nairobi's low income residential area of Huruma, a police official and witnesses said Sunday. Pius Masai Mwachi of the National Disaster Management Unit said a rescue operation is going on after a five-story residential building collapsed early Sunday in the Ngei area of Huruma. A body was pulled from the rubble and another person who was rescued alive later died, he said. Three others rescued are being treated at a hospital, he said. A third body was being pulled out of the rubble, said a photographer for The Associated Press who was at the scene. Building collapses have become common in Nairobi, where 4 million people live in low-income areas or slums. Housing is in high demand and unscrupulous developers often bypass building regulations. After eight buildings collapsed and killed 15 people in Kenya in 2015, President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered an audit of all the country's buildings to see if they were up to standard.

Volcanic ash covers parked motorcycles, brought by the Fuego Volcano, in Antigua Guatemala, Sunday, June 3, 2018. Volcan del Fuego is one of the most active volcanoes in Central America. AP

Guatemala volcanic eruption sends lava into homes, kills 25

EL RODEO, Guatemala (AP)—A fiery volcanic eruption in Guatemala sent lava flowing into rural communities, killing at least 25 as rescuers struggled to reach people where homes and roads were charred and blanketed with ash.

The death toll rose late Sunday with 18 bodies found in the community of San Miguel Los Lotes, disaster agency spokesman David de Leon said, adding to the seven victims previously confirmed elsewhere earlier in the day.

At least 20 people were injured, and authorities have said they feared the death toll could rise with an undetermined number of people unaccounted for.

The Volcan de Fuego, or "Volcano of Fire," exploded in a hail of ash and molten rock shortly before noon, blanketing nearby villages in heavy ash. Lava began flowing down the mountain's flank and across homes and roads around 4 p.m.

Eddy Sanchez, director of the country's seismology and volcanology institute, said the flows reached temperatures of about 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (700 Celsius).

Dramatic video showed a fast-moving lahar, or flow of pyroclastic material and slurry, slamming into and partly destroying a bridge on a highway between Sacatepequez and Escuintla.

Sacatepezuez television published images of a charred landscape where the lava came into contact with homes. Three bodies lay partially buried in ash-colored debris from the volcano, which lies about 27 miles (44 kilometers) from Guatemala City.

Other videos from local media showed residents walking barefoot and covered in muddy residue.

"Not everyone was able to get out. I think they ended up buried," Consuelo Hernandez, a resident of the village of El Rodeo, told the newspaper Diario de Centroamerica.

"Where we saw the lava fall, we ran to a hillside" to escape, she added.

Homes were still burning in El Rodeo late Sunday, and a charred stench hung over the town.

Hundreds of rescue workers, including firefighters, police and soldiers, worked to help any survivors and recover any more bodies amid the still-smoking lava.

Firefighters said they had seen some people who were trapped, but roads were cut by pyroclastic flows and they had been unable to reach them.

Amid darkness and rain, the rescue effort was suspended until early Monday morning, municipal firefighters' spokesman Cecilio Chacaj said.

Among the fatalities were four people, including a disaster agency official, killed when lava set a house on fire in El Rodeo village, National Disaster Coordinator Sergio Cabanas said. Two children were burned to death as they watched the volcano's second eruption this year from a bridge, he added.

Another victim was found in the streets of El Rodeo by volunteer firefighters, but the person died in an ambulance.

At an ad-hoc morgue in the town of Alotenango, at least three bodies lay covered with blue sheets.

Guatemala's disaster agency said 3,100 people had evacuated nearby communities, and ash fall from the eruption was affecting an area with about 1.7 million of country's 15 million or so people. Shelters were opened for those forced to flee.

"Currently the volcano continues to erupt and there exists a high potential for (pyroclastic) avalanches of debris," the disaster agency said late Sunday via Twitter, quoting Sanchez, the director of the seismology and volcanology institute.

Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales said he would issue a declaration of a state of emergency to be approved by Congress and urged people to heed warnings from emergency officials.

Ash fell on the Guatemala City area as well as the departments of Sacatepequez, Chimaltenango and Escuintla, which are in south-central Guatemala around the volcano. Streets and houses were covered in the colonial town of Antigua, a popular tourist destination.

Aviation authorities closed the capital's international airport because of the danger posed to planes by the ash.

One of Central America's most active volcanos, the conical Volcan de Fuego reaches an altitude of 12,346 feet (3,763 meters) above sea level at its peak.

At least 46 migrants drown off Tunisia; 9 killed off Turkey

MADRID (AP)—A boat carrying migrants toward Europe sank off the coast of Tunisia and at least 46 people drowned, though dozens more could be missing, the North African nation's defense ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said 68 people were rescued overnight after the boat sank in the Mediterranean Sea near Kerkennah island, off Tunisia's eastern coast. Authorities said the vessel was believed to have been carrying about 180 passengers.

Rachid Bouhoula, the defense ministry press officer, said a rescue and recovery operation continued in the waters around the island.

The ministry said earlier that those rescued included 61 Tunisians and seven people from other countries. In recent months, Tunisia increasingly has become a point of departure for Europe-bound migrants fleeing poverty and conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

Earlier Sunday, Turkish officials reported that nine migrants, including six children, drowned when a boat capsized in the eastern Mediterranean near the town of Demre in the southern province of Antalya. Turkey's coast guard rescued four others and a fifth migrant was saved by a passing fishing vessel. The migrants' nationalities have not been identified.

At the height of the migrant crisis in 2015, more than 857,000 people reached Greece from Turkey. A 2016 deal between Turkey and the European Union has dramatically reduced the numbers of migrants coming into Greece.

Spain's maritime rescue service announced Sunday that it had rescued a total of 240 people trying to cross the Mediterranean from North Africa over the weekend, and one person had apparently drowned. It said the migrants were in 11 small boats attempting the perilous crossing from Africa to Spain.

The U.N. says at least 660 migrants have died crossing the Mediterranean so far this year. Through the first four months of 2018, a total of 22,439 migrants reached European shores, with 4,409 of them arriving in Spain.

Focus

Puerto Rico grid 'teetering' despite $3.8 billion REPAIR JOB

TNS

Workers of the electric repair brigade remove old cables in San German, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, May 30, 2018. Federal and Puerto Rican officials are preparing for another catastrophe that cuts power for weeks or months. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is leaving some 600 generators installed in key sites such as hospitals and water pumping stations, more than six times the number before Maria.

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIN ALTO, Puerto Rico (AP)—After months of darkness and stifling heat, Noe Pagan was overjoyed when power-line workers arrived to restore electricity to his home deep in the lush green mountains of western Puerto Rico. But to his dismay, instead of raising a power pole toppled by Hurricane Maria, the federal contractors bolted the new 220-volt line to the narrow trunk of a breadfruit tree — a safety code violation virtually guaranteed to leave Pagan and his neighbors blacked out in a future hurricane.

"I asked the contractors if they were going to connect the cable to the post and they just didn't answer," said Pagan, a 23-year-old garage worker.

After an eight-month, $3.8 billion federal effort to try to end the longest blackout in United States history, officials say Puerto Rico's public electrical authority, the nation's largest, is almost certain to collapse again when the next hurricane hits this island of 3.3 million people.

"It's a highly fragile and vulnerable system that really could suffer worse damage than it suffered with Maria in the face of another natural catastrophe," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello said.

Another weather disaster is increasingly likely as warmer seas turbocharge the strongest hurricanes into even more powerful and wetter storms. Federal forecasters say there's a 75 percent likelihood that the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins Friday, will produce between five and nine hurricanes. And there's a 70 percent chance that as many as four of those could be major Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, with winds of 111 mph (179 kph) or higher.

"It's inevitable that Puerto Rico will get hit again," said Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker, head of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity, which is planning the long-term redesign of the grid run by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

Despite the billions plowed into the grid since Maria hit on Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rican officials warn that it could take far less than a Category 4 storm like Maria to cause a blackout like the one that persists today, with some 11,820 homes and businesses still without power.

"The grid is there, but the grid isn't there. It's teetering," said Hector Pesquera, Puerto Rico's commissioner of public safety. "Even if it's a (Category) 1, it is in such a state that I think we're going to lose power. I don't know for how long."

Federal officials and Puerto Rican leaders blame decades of mismanagement that left the island's power authority more than $9 billion in debt after declaring bankruptcy last year. Expensive projects were launched then cancelled. Politicians approved cheap power for well-connected corporations. By the time Maria hit, wooden power poles were rotted, transmission towers had rusted through and overgrown trees menaced thousands of miles of power lines.

In many places across Puerto Rico, federal emergency funds allocated in the aftermath of the disaster made up for years of neglected maintenance, replacing decaying infrastructure with tens of thousands of new poles and hundreds of miles of power lines rushed from the U.S. mainland at a steep premium.

But in other areas, crews without adequate supplies patched together damaged poles and power lines in a desperate push to restore power. In the western highlands, power cables were spliced together and woven haphazardly through trees in blatant violation of basic safety codes. In Pagan's town of Cain Alto and at least one other location, trees were used as makeshift power poles in the absence of proper equipment.

"We patched things up. We worked with the little material that was available and we recycled material. We took the 1,000 feet of wire that was on the ground and we strung it up in another area," one power authority worker said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from management. "We took the post that had fallen over or broken and we put it up somewhere else. A lot of the work is defective."

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of the power authority workers' union, said he estimates that roughly 10 percent to 15 percent of the repair work done over the last eight months did not meet basic quality standards.

"The logistics were terrible. I give it an F," he said. "Things need to be fixed."

Federal and Puerto Rican officials are preparing for another catastrophe that cuts power for weeks or month. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is leaving some 600 generators installed in key sites such as hospitals and water pumping stations, more than six times the number before Maria. FEMA has stockpiled 5.4 million liters of water and more than 80,000 tarps, and is distributing them and other emergency supplies to towns across the island so they will be in place for the next disaster.

Still, few people believe the island is truly ready.

"If a hurricane comes tomorrow it will leave the island completely without power again," said Juan Rosario, a community activist and former member of the power authority's board of directors.

Up to 4,645 more deaths than usual occurred in Puerto Rico in the three months after Maria, contends a new study published this week by the New England Journal of Medicine, an estimate that far exceeds the official government death toll of 64.

Officials now are warning Puerto Ricans to stockpile enough emergency supplies to survive as long as 10 days without help. Tens of thousands of homes still don't have roofs. FEMA distributed 59,000 enormous plastic sheets to homeowners who lost their roofs in Irma or Maria. More than 100,000 more received smaller tarps to protect specific rooms or belongings. Only 21,000 households have received federal aid to carry out permanent repairs.

Juana Sostre Vasquez's wooden house in the central highlands was ripped off its foundation by Maria. With the help of a son-in-law, the 69-year-old rebuilt, using cinderblocks and cement bought with $14,000 in FEMA reconstruction aid. Her roof is metal sheeting nailed onto wooden two-by-fours because she couldn't afford to build stronger. She says she's hopeful the next hurricane won't send that sheeting flying.

"The money didn't let us do the roof," she said. "I'm doing it little by little as I save a couple of dollars."

Mike Byrne, the head of FEMA's Caribbean office, says he expects the federal government will eventually have spent a total of $17.5 billion in emergency funds on fixing the hurricane damage and making Puerto Rico's grid more resilient to future storms.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ended its power restoration work in May, so future funding is expected to pass through Puerto Rico's bankrupt power company. After receiving $945 million in federal funds for repairs to the island's electric grid, Oklahoma-based Mammoth Energy Services announced Monday that the power authority had awarded its subsidiary, Cobra Energy, another $900 million to finish the job and begin fortifying the grid against future storms.

Last week, Cobra's crews were working to rebuild one of a pair of 230-kilo-volt transmission lines climbing from Puerto Rico's main power plants on its southern coast across high mountains to the main users of energy in the capital, San Juan, and other industrial sites and population centers in the north. Because of a decision years ago to stretch the island's main transmission lines through a narrow path across the rugged mountains, one of the transmission lines must be turned off so its powerful current doesn't energize equipment and workers laboring a few feet away.

Cobra transmission director Alan Edwards had more than 50 linemen working on the repair, at nearly $4,000 per worker per day in federal funds from the Puerto Rico power authority, when he got the call to stop. A flaw was causing a transmission line to overheat dangerously elsewhere in the system, so the line alongside where Edwards' men were working would have to be returned to service, forcing the crews to stop for at least the rest of the day.

"Maybe we're back at it tomorrow, I don't know. May be next week before we can get back out there," Edwards said.

The already staggering reconstruction costs will rise by billions more if another hurricane hits. And many billions worth of those federally funded improvements could eventually pass into private hands: Puerto Rico's Senate could approve the sale of much of the island's power grid to a private power company or companies as early as this week.

The potential sale won't affect the federal government's decision to spend billions of dollars on repairing and improving the grid, said Byrne, the head of FEMA's operations in the Caribbean.

"I can't wait, because these are U.S. citizens that are at risk. U.S. citizens deserve every ounce of effort that I can bring to this, and that's what they're going to get," Byrne said.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Restyled 2018 Nissan Leaf

has extended range on full charge to about 150 miles

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Nissan redesigned its groundbreaking Leaf all-electric car for 2018, which includes improving the electric drive system — and extended the driving range on a single charge to an estimated 150 miles, up from 107 miles on the 2017 model.

The exterior and interior have been restyled, and the new model has a 147-horsepower electric motor, up from the previous 107 horsepower. Torque was increased 36 percent, to 236 foot-pounds, giving the Leaf quicker starts.

Although the Leaf's new 40 kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery pack is the same size as before, it has higher density to provide more power, allowing for the increase in driving range.

Many electric vehicle experts believe that a minimum range of 200 miles is what consumers want to avoid having anxiety about whether they will run out of power prematurely.

But Nissan insists that the new 150-mile range "should satisfy the daily driving needs of the majority of Leaf owners."

There are three trim levels: the S model, starting at $29,990 (plus $885 freight); the SV, beginning at $32,490; and the SL – the model we tested – which lists for $36,200.

The biggest difference in the price between the entry S model and the midlevel SV is that the S doesn't have built-in quick-charging capability. But it can be added as an option for an additional $1,590.

Among other new technology in the 2018 Leaf is the e-Pedal, which lets the driver use a single pedal for more than 90 percent of everyday driving, including most braking. But the conventional brake pedal must still be used when fast or aggressive braking is necessary.

With the e-Pedal, when the driver takes his foot off the accelerator pedal, the car will come to a complete stop without the driver having to press the brake pedal. To activate the e-Pedal, the driver must pull back on a switch in the center console, but it does not stay activated once the vehicle is shut down – it defaults back to the "off" position.

Of course, the e-Pedal also does not take over and slow the vehicle if the Leaf's radar cruise control is active and the driver moves the foot off the accelerator pedal.

During my week in the Leaf, I tried to remember to engage the e-Pedal whenever starting out, and found that in most driving conditions, I really didn't need to use the actual brake pedal. Although I was not in a position to see for myself, the brake lights do come on when the e-Pedal is bringing the car to a stop, Nissan says.

Also new is the ProPilot Assist system, included on our test vehicle in a $650 package. It includes a combination of the radar/adaptive cruise control, automatic emergency forward braking with Pedestrian Detection, Steering Assist, Intelligent Lane Intervention, High-Beam Assist, and an electric park brake.

TNS
2018 Nissan Leaf.

Once it is activated, which happens when a button is pressed on the right side of the steering wheel, ProPilot Assist can actually keep the Leaf centered in its lane on the highway.

But even though it can do this, it doesn't want the driver to depend on it, for sure. When I was trying it out on a not-too-busy rural interstate highway, and took my hands off the steering wheel to see how well it worked, I was admonished by a warning notice on the dash that my steering input was required. It knew that I had let go of the wheel, and was quite nervous about that – if a computer can actually get nervous.

Also with this system, if the car in front stops, the system will apply the brakes to bring the vehicle to a full stop if necessary, and, after stopping, the vehicle will remain in place even if the driver's foot comes off the brake pedal.

When traffic begins moving again, the car will start moving if the driver touches the cruise switch or lightly presses the accelerator pedal.

Among other advanced safety gear are Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, and the Intelligent Around View Monitor with moving object detection.

Also new is a system that can share power between the vehicle and homes, buildings or power grids.

"Using vehicle-to-home systems, the battery makes it possible to store surplus solar power during the daytime and then use it to help power the home in the evening," Nissan says. "The customer can also recharge the battery in the middle of the night, when prices are lowest in some markets, and then use the electricity during the day to reduce energy costs."

The Leaf's chassis has been beefed up for improved stability, with heavy components such as the battery pack put in the center of the car to help improve directional stability and bring smoother cornering.

Leaf's new exterior design makes it look more like a traditional hatchback than it did. It has the Nissan V-motion grille, "boomerang" light signature and floating roof, making the car look similar to other current Nissan models, such as the Rogue compact crossover.

There are new projector-beam headlights with dual, direct-lens low and high beams; unique rear combination lights; an integrated spoiler; and a new low hood.

The angle of the charging port at the front has been reconfigured for greater convenience, letting the customer connect the charging cable without bending down. The charging cable that came with our test vehicle would allow for connecting to a 240-volt or 120-volt outlet.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Nissan Leaf

The package: Compact, five-door, five-passenger, electric-motor powered, front-wheel-drive hatchback electric vehicle.

Highlights: Nissan has completely redesigned its Leaf all-electric car for 2018, extending the range on a single full charge to about 150 miles, giving it lots of available new technology, including some self-driving features, and making it more practical for everyday commuting and family use. The car has plenty of power, lots of standard and optional features, and a roomy interior.

Negatives: Range is limited to about 150 miles before recharging of the lithium-ion battery pack is required, so long road trips can be a challenge.

- Engines: 110-kilowatt AC synchronous electric motor.
- Transmission: Single speed.
- Power/torque: 147 HP/236 foot-pounds.
- Length: 176.4 inches.
- Curb weight range: 3,433-3,508 pounds.
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Cargo volume: 23.6 cubic feet (behind rear seat); 30 cubic feet (rear seatback folded).
- Side air bags: Front seat-mounted; roof-mounted side-curtain for both rows.
- Electronic stability control: Standard.
- Fuel capacity/type: 40 kWa lithium-ion battery pack; range about 150 miles per charge.
- EPA fuel economy (mpg-equivalent): 125 city/100 highway/112 combined.
- Base price range: $29,990-$36,200, plus $885 freight (before any federal and/or state tax rebates/credits, if available).
- On the Road rating: 8.5 (of a possible 10).

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JASON JANG

Also known as Jang, Chuen Huei
Dec 19, 1958 – May 26, 2018

Jason is survived by his wife Celia, daughters Jennifer and Emily Jang, son-in-law Scott Helgesen and extended family.

Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Celia and Family

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We, the family of the late
Luis Pangelinan Agulto

Wish to express a sincere and heartfelt "Si Yuus Ma'ase and Thank You" to all our families, relatives, and friends. We would also like to thank the doctors and nurses of the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation and the home visiting nurses for the many years of care and assistance. Your thoughtfulness and unselfish support in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us to ensure the grief and sorrow of our loss. As you have remembered our beloved Luis in your prayers, please be assured that we will also remember you and your loved ones in ours.

May God bless us all
The Family

Life & Style

Bill Clinton, James Patterson new, dramatic novel

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—The book is officially fiction: the story of a president who disappears as he tries to prevent an apocalyptic cyberattack.

The authors, Bill Clinton and James Patterson, swear it could happen.

"You're asking the Secret Service, in effect, to walk away from their duty," the former president said during a recent interview at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel as he and Patterson discussed "The President Is Missing," the thriller they worked on together that comes out this week. "(But) it could happen. If you were determined to do it, you could do it."

"A big piece of it (the novel) was getting him out of the White House," Patterson said. "It would be irresponsible, but under the circumstances it was the responsible thing to do."

Prodded to collaborate by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, who handles book deals for both of them, Clinton and Patterson drew on their respective backgrounds in completing a 500-page novel that topped Amazon's best-seller list before publication. Patterson is among the world's most popular and prolific fiction writers, and the novel is a characteristically fast-paced narrative, with brief chapters and dramatic plot turns.

Clinton, a newcomer to novel writing whose previous books include the million-selling autobiography "My Life," didn't need a lot of research to tell readers what it's like to sit inside the White House Situation Room or to be briefed on a possible terrorist attack, or to imagine slipping away entirely.

In this Monday, May 21, 2018, photo, former President Bill Clinton, left, and author James Patterson speak during an interview about their new novel, "The President is Missing," in New York. AP

"Jim wanted it to be authentic," Clinton said. "Which means: A, the physical setting has to be authentic. B, the procedures had to be authentic, and the interplay between the president and the staff and all the world leaders and everything had to have the feel of reality, and even how the Secret Service works."

The novel has received blurbs from Mary Higgins Clark, Walter Mosley and even "Hamilton" author Ron Chernow. The historian told The Associated Press in a recent email that he was initially "dubious" about the project, but was impressed by the "stylistic blend" of the two authors.

"I have to assume that the crisp pacing comes from Patterson, but there is no doubt that the authenticity of the abundant detail owes a great deal to Clinton's years in the White House," Chernow wrote. "The book has a knowing, inside feel."

Readers may be surprised to see one experience Clinton knows of well turn up in the novel—impeachment, as faced by President Jonathan Lincoln Duncan, whose foes allege he endangered national security. The story line will surely revive an historic low point of his White House years, when he was impeached in 1998 by the House of Representatives, but acquitted by the Senate, on charges stemming in part from his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The scandal was already back in the news earlier this year, with Lewinsky writing that the #MeToo movement compelled her to look upon that time through a "new lens."

Publishers embrace, and ponder, audiobooks' rise

NEW YORK (AP)—As the audiobook market continues to boom, publishers find themselves both grateful and concerned.

The industry gathered over the past week for BookExpo and the fan-based BookCon, which ended Sunday at the Jacob Javits center in Manhattan. The consensus, as it has been for the past few years, is of a stable overall market: physical books rising, e-book sales soft and audio, led by downloaded works, expanding by double digits.

"We've had really significant growth," Michael Pietsch, CEO of Hachette Book Group, told The Associated Press. "It's offsetting the e-book decline."

Authors and publishers alike celebrate the format's appeal and creativity. The standard approach of a single narrator has given way to productions of remarkable ambition. More than 100 voices were used for George Saunders' historical reverie "Lincoln in the Bardo," winner of the Audio Publishers Association's "Audie" for the year's best recording, a prize handed out during BookExpo.

For some publishers, as many as 1 out of every 10 books sold is in the audio format, a percentage far higher than just a few years ago. And while the industry debated whether e-books expanded the market, or simply shifted it to digital reading, publishers agree that audio brings in new customers and allows them to encounter a narrative when a physical or e-book would be impossible—while driving, for instance, or doing housework.

But as the market thrives, competition grows and the industry looks warily at audio's dominant seller, Amazon, and the Amazon-owned audio producer and distributor, Audible Inc.

"Audible has done a phenomenal job in creating their business and making it popular and branching it out. And they have become a very strong owner of that market to date. And that's to their credit," said Simon & Schuster CEO Carolyn Reidy. "But with strong dominance in the market, problems come."

Publishers wonder—they say it hasn't happened yet—when Amazon will demand a greater share of audio revenues. They speak of Audible approaching writers directly. They have turned down deals because the agent was insisting that audio rights be negotiated separately, a conflict that arose during the early rise of e-books.

While major publishers are insisting that all rights be acquired together, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Grove Atlantic are among the houses with no audio divisions; those rights often go to Audible, at times for advances unthinkable until recently.

Three publishing officials say that Audible recently paid well into six figures for B.J. Fogg's "Tiny Habits: The Small Changes That Change Everything" and Adrienne Brodeur's memoir "Wild Game." The officials were not authorized to discuss negotiations and asked not to be identified.

'Solo: A Star Wars Story' falls 65 percent in second weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Solo: A Star Wars Story" is losing momentum quickly at the box office, even with a relatively quiet weekend free of any new blockbuster competition. After an underwhelming launch, the space saga fell 65 percent in weekend two with $29.3 million from North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

"Solo" has now earned $148.9 million domestically, which is still shy of "Rogue One's" December 2016 opening weekend of $155.1 million and over $135 million short of where "Rogue One" was in its second weekend.

The 65 percent drop off is one of the highest in recent "Star Wars" history, although it is less steep than the second week fall of the franchise's last film, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," which slid 67.5 percent in weekend two this past December—but, that was also after a $220 million debut.

Internationally, "Solo" added $30.3 million, and globally the film has netted $264.2 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for comScore, thinks that all the media attention given to "Solo's" less-than-impressive opening weekend numbers could have actually negatively affected its second weekend earnings.

"Box office got conflated with perceived value of the movie and that might have affected its second weekend," Dergarabedian said. "Sometimes news of the box office can impact a movie's bottom line."

He noted that in comScore's audience survey, most of the over 1,000 people polled "really liked" the movie.

"Solo's" tumble brought it even closer to "Deadpool 2," which is now in its third weekend in theaters and still managed to reel in an estimated $23.3 million to take second place. With a domestic total of $254.7 million and a crowded marketplace with both "Solo" and "Avengers: Infinity War" surrounding it, "Deadpool 2" is still only about $30 million behind where the first film was in its third weekend.

1. "**Solo: A Star Wars Story**," $29.3 million ($30.3 million international).
2. "**Deadpool 2**," $23.3 million ($41.6 million international).
3. "**Adrift**," $11.5 million.
4. "**Avengers: Infinity War**," $10.4 million ($24.3 million international).
5. "**Book Club**," $6.8 million ($1.1 million international).
6. "**Upgrade**," $4.5 million.
7. "**Life of the Party**," $3.5 million.
8. "**Breaking In**," $2.8 million ($300,000 international).
9. "**Action Point**," $2.3 million.
10. "**Overboard**," $2 million ($1.5 million international).

Shailene Woodley's lost-at-sea drama "Adrift" fared the best of the three newcomers, which included the horror pic "Upgrade" and a Johnny Knoxville comedy "Action Point." "Adrift," from STX Entertainment, washed up in third place with $11.5 million, while the others struggled to make a significant impact.

"Upgrade" opened In sixth place with $4.5 million, behind both "Avengers: Infinity War" ($10.4 million) and "Book Club" ($6.8 million), and "Action Point," which was not screened for critics, landed in ninth place with a dismal $2.3 million.

This weekend also saw a few smaller studio landmarks for Magnolia Pictures, whose Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary "RBG" became its highest grossing film ever with $7.9 million, and Pantelion Films, which scored a similar feat with "Overboard," which is now up to $45.5 million.

Even with "Solo's" stumble, the year-to-date box office is still up 6.2 percent as June kicks into gear with some big movies on the horizon, including "Ocean's 8," "Incredibles 2" and "Jurassic World."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Living statues festival wows Romania's capital

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Wait, did that statue really move?

It may have been the question many people asked while taking a walk in Bucharest over the past week, during the International Living Statues Festival.

Artists from eight countries embodied 64 statues in the old quarter of Romanian capital, in popular parks and in the garden of the spectacular Filipescu-Cesianu residence, built in 1892 in the Belle Epoque period.

In this Thursday, May 24, 2018, photograph, artists of Romania's Masca theatre wear outfits inspired by famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi's iconic Endless Column, at the Living Statues International Festival, in Bucharest, Romania. AP

Actors of the Romanian Masca Theatre, the festival's organizer, brought to life Parisian street vendors from the 17th and 18th centuries in performances seen by an estimated 30,000 people.

Lawyer fights for Harvey Weinstein, in court and out

NEW YORK (AP)—A powerful public figure is accused of sexual assault in a Manhattan hotel room. There's media frenzy. Enter go-to defense attorney Ben Brafman.

Brafman, 69, was on the winning end of that scenario in 2011 when he helped former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn beat an attempted rape charge.

Seven years later, Brafman has an even bigger challenge: defending Harvey Weinstein against sex crime charges.

"I'm trying my best to save him in somewhat of an impossible situation he finds himself in," Brafman told The Associated Press.

Saving unpopular clients in impossible situations is something of a specialty for Brafman, whose list of past clients includes professional athletes, celebrities and wealthy businessmen in trouble, some so vilified many lawyers would shy away from them.

He said in the past year he's gotten to know Weinstein as someone with "a forceful personality" who "soaks up all the oxygen in the room," but steadfastly maintains his innocence.

In Brafman, Weinstein gets a tactical and pugnacious lawyer willing to fight for him inside court—and outside, too, in pressure-cooker conditions.

With Strauss-Kahn, Brafman had a case that came to center on the credibility of a hotel maid who had accused the influential French diplomat of sexual assault.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr.—the same prosecutor handling the Weinstein case—ultimately dropped the charges, saying there were inconsistencies in the accuser's story.

Compared to Strauss-Kahn, Weinstein's case appears to be a much heavier lift: He faces more serious allegations of raping one woman in a hotel room, plus forcing another to perform oral sex in his office. On top of that, there are dozens of similar allegations against his client by actresses and other women and a climate of outrage fueled by the #MeToo movement.

After Weinstein turned himself in May 25, Brafman came out swinging, telling reporters: "Mr. Weinstein did not invent the casting couch in Hollywood," and that "bad behavior is not on trial in this case."

In the AP interview, the lawyer said he felt compelled to strike back against months of what he calls unfair press coverage fueled by leaks by authorities investigating the case. He also claims Vance is under intense political pressure to get a conviction, further stacking the odds against Weinstein.

In this May 25, 2018, file photo, Harvey Weinstein, center, leaves with his lawyer Benjamin Brafman, right, after posting bail at Manhattan's Criminal Court in New York. AP

"I think part of my ethical responsibility to a client in a high-profile case is to try and prevent a conviction by what's happening outside of the courtroom," he said. "And when there is a tsunami of bad press in a case like this, for example, I have to be able to try and level the playing field."

He added: "I'm not defending the crime of rape. To falsely accuse a person of rape, however, is equally offensive. And in this case, I believe that there are a number of very well-known personalities who have made accusations against Harvey Weinstein that are just patently false."

An Orthodox Jew who is the son of Holocaust victims, Brafman was raised in Brooklyn and Queens. He graduated from Ohio Northern University College of Law, and served as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan in the mid-1970s before building his defense practice.

In 2001, Brafman won an acquittal for hip-hop star Sean Combs after he was accused of toting an illegal handgun into a crowded Manhattan nightclub. Brafman says it taught him a lesson about managing hard-charging clients used to calling all the shots.

He had less success muzzling another big-name client, Martin "Pharma Bro" Skhreli, who was convicted at a high-profile trial last year of cheating hedge fund investors.

Even after he was found guilty, the former pharmaceutical CEO—notorious for inflating the price of a life-saving drug—kept taunting the likes of Hillary Clinton on social media, prompting a judge to revoke his bail. Skhreli ended up receiving a seven-year sentence.

Brafman also represented conservative author and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza, who pleaded guilty to making illegal campaign contributions and was sentenced to probation. D'Souza was back in the news last week when President Donald Trump announced he was pardoning him.

Kenneth Montgomery, a lawyer who has represented an accuser in a rape investigation, said Brafman's willingness to engage the media is understandable in a legal system where "the government has a lot of power, and in a day and age where the media affects people's opinion."

Some defense attorneys stay pointedly mum outside court, but speaking to the media can make sense if "you want to get in front of" the public narrative of a case, Montgomery said.

Attorney Douglas Wigdor, who represented the maid who accused Strauss-Kahn, said Brafman "advocated on behalf of his client and used all his connections and skills to his client's advantage, and I can't really begrudge him for doing that."

Ticket service data breach disrupts music venues

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Concert ticketing service Ticketfly says it's working to get its system back online after a data breach leaked users' personal information and disrupted services at live music venues.

The San Francisco firm's parent company, Eventbrite, said Sunday that the stolen information included customers' names, addresses, emails and phone numbers.

It hasn't disclosed other details, but a website that tracks data breaches says the hack affected more than 26 million user accounts.

Troy Hunt, who runs the "Have I Been Pwned?" (POHNED) website, says it's not as immediately damaging as other breaches because passwords weren't stolen.

The breach left nightclubs and other venues from Seattle to Providence, Rhode Island, scrambling for alternatives to sell tickets for upcoming shows.

Eventbrite bought rival Ticketfly for $200 million last year from music service Pandora.

Paramount scraps airing 'Heathers,' citing school violence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After delaying its airing in the aftermath of February's Florida high school shooting, Paramount Network is permanently scrapping "Heathers."

Representatives from parent company Viacom confirmed Saturday that the TV reboot of the 1988 movie black comedy about high-school murder and suicide will not air on Paramount or any other Viacom properties.

Viacom says the subject matter is not suitable in the current environment for channels it is attempting to make youth-oriented, but that it is open to the possibility of selling the anthology series to a more fitting outlet.

The show based on the film starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater had been set to premiere in March, but was delayed after the Parkland, Florida shooting that left 17 dead.

The move was first reported by The Hollywood Reporter.

Choice made before difficult birth continues to haunt mom

DEAR ABBY: Twelve years ago, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. It was a difficult pregnancy and delivery due to a medical condition my daughter was diagnosed with in the womb. The doctors let my husband and me know there could be problems during the delivery. We needed to make a decision. If things went wrong, we had to choose between my life and our daughter's life. I told my husband to pick her.

I can't stop thinking about how quickly my husband agreed to that decision! At the time, I was OK with his immediate reaction and loved him more for caring about our child. My kid is the light of my life, and jealousy plays no role in my emotions. I would want him to choose her again, but I don't understand why his swift agreement haunts me still. It makes me question our relationship and how much I really matter to him.

HAUNTED IN TEXAS

DEAR HAUNTED: You may be viewing what happened from the wrong perspective. From where I sit, you TOLD your husband what you wanted his choice to be, and because he loves you, he immediately agreed. I'm willing to bet that you are his world. I know few men who would wish to parent a child alone. You made the choice for your husband, and you are wrong to be second-guessing him after the fact.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife doesn't think it's rude to talk—or "whisper," as she calls it—during movies. I don't want to see movies with her because of this. She says I don't understand because I am not a woman. I tell her being a woman has nothing to do with it. Talking during movies is just plain rude. We can go for dessert after a movie and discuss it. I'm not sure if you have any words of wisdom for her because she's too busy talking to listen to me.

SILENT IN OHIO

DEAR SILENT: You and I are not the only ones who feel that when people talk and whisper in a theater, it's rude. Often when I go to films, a short message is posted on the screen before it begins requesting that the audience turn off their electronic devices and refrain from talking while it's running.

Because your wife refuses to keep quiet, have her see movies with a female friend who doesn't mind the distraction—if she can find one. And as for you, if there's a movie you want to see, either go alone or with a buddy.

P.S. Please warn your wife that she is asking to be yelled at, cursed at or worse if she persists.

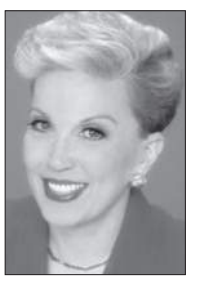
■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for seven years from my 28-year-old daughter's father. She doesn't understand why I date and keeps asking me why I can't just stay single. She said if I do find a boyfriend, she'll refuse to meet him. She insists that if a man is in my life, he does not have to be in hers. This makes holidays and special events hard. What should I say to her?

GETTING OPPOSITION IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR GETTING: You and your daughter are both adults. Tell her that you want to date and have companionship for the same reasons she does. Then point out that she does not have the right to dictate how you should live the rest of your life, and if she chooses not to meet someone who brings her mother happiness, it will be her loss and not yours.

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



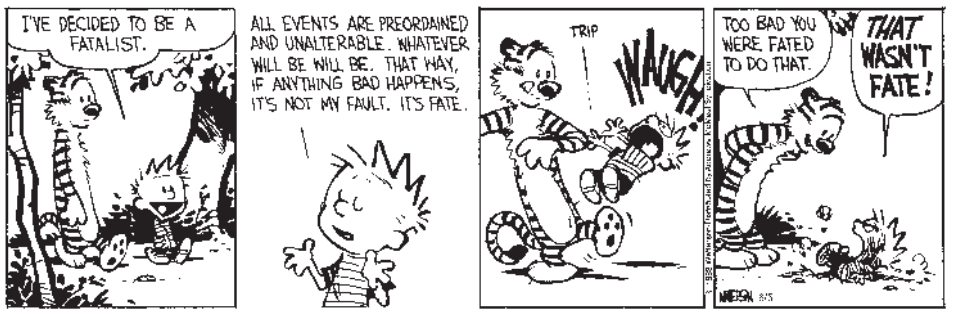
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE DECIDED TO BE A FATALIST.
ALL EVENTS ARE PREORDAINED AND UNALTERABLE. WHATEVER WILL BE WILL BE. THAT WAY, IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS, IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IT'S FATE.
TRIP
WAUGH
TOO BAD YOU WERE FATED TO DO THAT.
THAT WASN'T FATE!

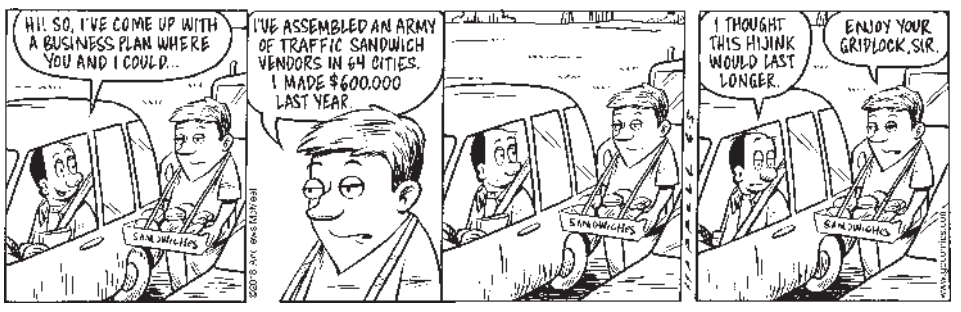
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LET'S SEE...WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING CULTURAL...
BUT ALSO FUN. OOOH, HERE'S A PLACE...
THE ICE CREAM MUSEUM!
I'VE NEVER CLIMBED A 40-FOOT FUDGE POP!
JIM DAVIS 6-5

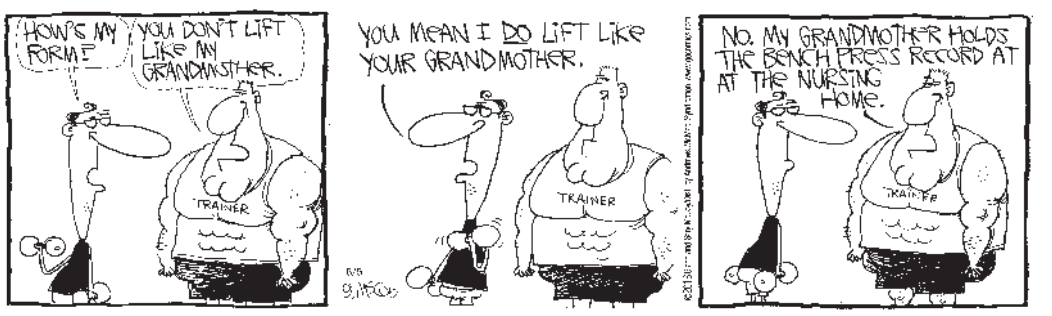
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI! SO, I'VE COME UP WITH A BUSINESS PLAN WHERE YOU AND I COULD...
I'VE ASSEMBLED AN ARMY OF TRAFFIC SANDWICH VENDORS IN 64 CITIES. I MADE $600,000 LAST YEAR.
I THOUGHT THIS HIJINK WOULD LAST LONGER.
ENJOY YOUR GRIDLOCK, SIR.
SANDWICHES

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW'S MY FORM?
YOU DON'T LIFT LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER.
YOU MEAN I DO LIFT LIKE YOUR GRANDMOTHER.
NO. MY GRANDMOTHER HOLDS THE BENCH PRESS RECORD AT THE NURSING HOME.
TRAINER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Baby's father
5 Chest bone
8 "Phooey!"
12 Raw materials
13 Blackbird
14 Author Wiesel
15 Vulnerable part in a chain
17 Cast a ballot
18 Charged bit
19 Newspaper chief
21 Sunrises
24 Sad
25 "Shake —!" ("Hurry!")
26 Snooker
30 PC port
31 Pasta topper
32 24 horas
33 Migratory songbird
35 Type choice
36 Nixon successor
37 Back street
38 Designer Coco
41 "Evil Woman" gp.
42 QB Tony
43 Calligrapher's supply
48 Last write-up
49 Eggy quaff
50 Half a sextet
51 Sit for a photo
52 Lamb's dam
53 Easy targets

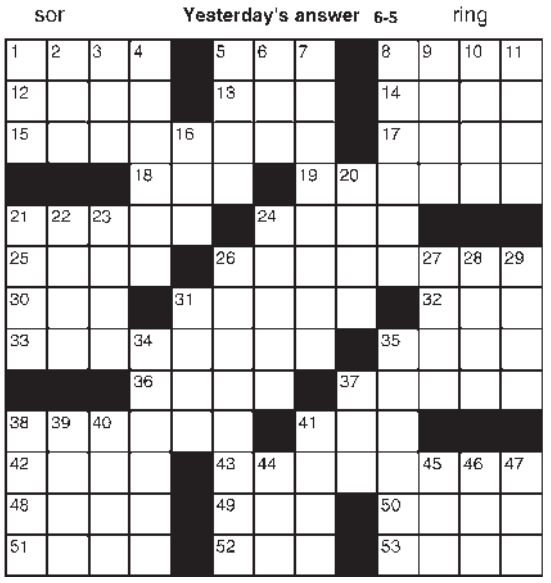
DOWN

1 Part of DJIA
2 "Right you —!"
3 Narc's org.
4 Making inquiries
5 April forecast
6 Hostel
7 Schwinn protector
8 Critic's critique
9 Oodles
10 Bandleader Puente
11 Crystal gazer
16 — Angeles
20 Ranch visitor
21 Smear
22 To boot
23 "Dragnet" star Jack
24 Tied
26 Tiny, as a fracture
27 Teen fave
28 Baseball team
29 "Roar" singer Perry
31 — gin fizz
34 Renowned
35 Doesn't sink
37 Frazier foe
38 Field yield
39 Vagrant
40 Writer Kingsley
41 Rim
44 At once
45 Roth svgs. plan
46 Pinch
47 Decks in the ring

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	O	E		V	E	S	T	A		P	U	B
O	A	K		E	X	P	O	S		A	N	E
P	R	E	S	S	P	A	S	S		S	T	E
			A	S	I		C	E	N	S	O	R
A	M	P	L	E	R		A	T	O	P		
V	I	A		L	E	T		S	P	O		L
I	N	S	T		S	U	M		E	R	M	A
V	I	S	O	R		G	.	S		T	A	P
			R	I	S		S	P	A	S	M	S
D	E	V	O	T	E		H	U	R			
A	M			U	N	D	E	R	P	A	S	S
B	I	T		A	S		A	N		Y	E	A
S	I	Y		L	E	H	S			N	E	I

Yesterday's answer 6-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Fisher, 38; Mark Wahlberg, 47; Ron Livingston, 51; Jeff Garlin, 56.

Happy Birthday: Pick up the pace and strive for perfection. Gather information and know what you are talking about before you present your plans. Your intelligence will be tested this year, making accuracy, innovation and the wherewithal to turn your plans into a reality priorities. An energetic approach to everything you do will ensure you don't get left behind. Your numbers are 1, 7, 15, 27, 34, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Engage in challenges that require you to use intelligence and enthusiasm. Your ability to think and react quickly will give you the edge over anyone who tries to compete with you. Refuse to give in to a bully. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Focus on reading, researching and talking to experts. Find out all you can in order to put yourself in a strong position when it comes time to make an important decision that can affect your position or family. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Check out job opportunities and consider how you can turn yourself into a valuable asset during the current economic trends. Pick up information and make your knowledge and professionalism be the marketing tools that lead to your success. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Self-improvement projects will turn out well. A change will do you good and encourage you to get out more. Socializing and participating in events that will have an impact on your lifestyle will be surprisingly enlightening. Intimacy is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If you want something, you'll have to work for it. Don't let anyone speak for you or act on your behalf. What you learn by getting involved in the process will be valuable as well as contribute to your success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* No one will know better than you when it comes to what's in your best interest. Be respectful, but when it is time to make a decision, do what feels right, not what someone else wants. Show discipline and do things properly. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An expert will give you a better understanding of what you need to know and do in order to get ahead. Communication and fact-checking will help you recognize how best to proceed. Protect against being bullied or manipulated. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't get angry. Walk away from discord and put your heart and soul into something that brings you joy. Surround yourself with positive people who bring out the best in you. Home and personal improvements, along with romance, are featured. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* An emotional confrontation will leave you questioning what to do next. Focus on physical challenges that will help ease stress and make you feel good about your accomplishments. Avoid derogatory individuals and align yourself with people who share your intellectual goals. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look for an opportunity to use your knowledge and skills in a unique way. What you come up with will promote financial gains and encourage you to bring about physical changes at home that are beneficial to your emotional outlook. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Let others do as they please. Your concern should be with yourself and the personal changes you want to make. Don't feel you have to keep up with someone who is excessive or extravagant. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Personal changes will bring good results. A new look or creative endeavor will bring about unexpected change that will lead to greater opportunity. Love, romance and children should all be priorities. Winning a gift or a financial gain looks promising. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, chatty and innovative. You are intellectual and curious.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		2				3		4
	5		6		9		7	
8								9
	1		4		6		9	
	6		9		8		1	
2								1
	4		3		5		2	
3		5				7		6

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	9	1	5	4	3	2	7	8
3	2	4	8	9	7	5	1	6
7	5	8	2	1	6	3	9	4
5	3	9	1	7	4	6	8	2
1	8	7	6	5	2	9	4	3
4	6	2	3	8	9	1	5	7
8	7	3	9	6	5	4	2	1
9	4	6	7	2	1	8	3	5
2	1	5	4	3	8	7	6	9

Difficulty Level ★ 5/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLOOD COAGULATION **Solution: 7 letters**

D	C	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	G	A	O	C	T	P
I	A	I	N	I	R	B	I	F	P	E	O	L	R	L
S	S	M	S	S	O	L	H	H	V	N	I	O	E	A
E	C	D	A	E	T	E	A	A	S	Q	T	T	A	T
A	A	O	N	G	P	S	E	E	U	H	E	T	T	E
S	D	M	I	A	E	L	R	I	R	C	S	I	S	L
E	E	A	R	N	C	V	D	O	A	A	T	N	I	E
R	S	I	G	B	E	H	M	F	R	H	S	G	S	T
I	N	N	E	D	R	B	R	Ⓒ	E	P	E	I	A	S
N	A	R	T	B	I	U	U	Ⓤ	H	L	L	P	T	T
E	M	I	N	N	S	R	I	Ⓣ	S	A	U	L	S	R
R	U	A	I	I	E	L	Y	Ⓢ	I	S	N	U	O	O
O	H	P	K	N	I	M	A	T	I	V	A	G	M	M
T	T	E	N	A	S	E	K	C	I	N	R	T	E	A
S	T	R	A	N	D	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	L

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Ages, Alpha, Bruising, Cascade, Change, Cleave, Clotting, Coagulation, Conserved, Cure, Cuts, Damage, Disease, Domain, Fibrin, Gels, Granules, Hemostasis, Heparin, Humans, Integrin, Liquid, Loss, Lysis, Nick, Phase, Platelets, Plug, Prothrombin, Rare, Receptor, Repair, Serine, Store, Strand, Strength, Stromal, Surface, Tenase, Test, Treat, Vitamin K

Yesterday's Answer: Winston Churchill

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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CNMI U14 team heads to Beijing for AFC fes
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
With the CNMI U16 Girls National Team almost done in its campaign in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier, it's now the CNMI U14B Boy National Team's t to take the cent it competes i U14 Festi
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REPORTER
Rota resident director for Finance and acting Rota Municipality treas Vivian Ogo Hocog was arrested and t en to Saipan on Friday for allegedly em bezzling between $15,000 and mu laneous and mu 2015 to ,000 from misce counts fro July
» Hocog used Rota Municipal Treasurer checks to purchase cases of beer for her own benefit and to play poker
» Lt. Gov. Hocog's son's signature allegedly forged in business license
» Judge Kim-Tenorio allows
Saipan Tribune
Sports
Yankees weather rain, Royals comeback
PAGE 25

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he CNMI's Robbie Schorr lo
U14 Circuit, while Malika Miy
Schorr collected 5,500 points to
other players in the region. Po
nia nations from November last ye
nes in AFC qu
Tekanee in a th and Col- and
Glynnes Dela Cruz hit the board, too for the PH, finding the back of the net in the 18th 33rd, and 43rd
starters team's
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EVEN AS USCIS SETS 2017 CW-1 CAP AT 1
'CNMI needs to tap available
By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
» Cap is 1 less than 2016 number
ov. Ralph DLG Torres said the ML needs every bit of avail- sustain the cur-
CUC: Gulick, DHS ign advice on CW-1 cap 'n
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. described as "mind bog- ," U.S. Citizenship and Im- District 26
» Sirok disclose DHS' confide tial deal wit CUC for 9 o its 13 affec CW-1 work

WHATZIT Solution: More or less

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Djokovic reaches French Open quarterfinals

AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Spain's Fernando Verdasco during their fourth round match in the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Sunday, June 3, 2018 in Paris.

PARIS (AP)—In his record 12th French Open quarterfinal, Novak Djokovic will face a man he knows well, even if the rest of the world does not.

What a tale Marco Cecchinato (it's pronounced Cheh-key-NAH'-toe) can tell, though. He is a 25-year-old from Sicily who once was handed a match-fixing suspension that later was thrown out on appeal. His tour-level career record was 4-23 before this season. His Grand Slam record was 0-4 before last week.

Yet here he is, earning the right to face Djokovic for a spot in the semifinals at Roland Garros by eliminating the No. 8-seeded David Goffin, 7-5, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, on Sunday. How surprising is this run? Cecchinato's ranking of No. 72 is the lowest in a decade for a man in the final eight at the French Open.

Asked whether he could have envisioned, even as recently as April, that he would get this far at a major tournament, Cecchinato answered with one word, "No," before breaking into as wide a smile as can be.

"For me," he continued, "this is the best moment of my life."

Cecchinato and Djokovic, who meet Tuesday, have crossed paths often in Monte Carlo. Djokovic, a 12-time major champion, lives there; Cecchinato has worked on his game at an academy there.

"I have known of him for many years," Djokovic said after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 30 Fernando Verdasco. "I know his game and I practiced with him. I watched him play. For sure, he's playing the tennis of his life."

Yes, Djokovic was thrilled to get back to a ninth consecutive quarterfinal in Paris after dealing with elbow trouble for more than a year and needing surgery in February. And in other men's action Sunday, No. 2 seed Alexander Zverev was relieved to win a third consecutive five-setter—after trailing 2-1 in sets each time—to get to his first Grand Slam quarterfinal, where he will face No. 8 Dominic Thiem.

But one of these is not like the others.

At all.

In July 2016, Cecchinato was one of three Italian players initially suspended by their national tennis federation for allegedly influencing the outcome of matches. He was banned for 18 months and fined 40,000 euros (about $45,000), accused of losing on purpose during a lower-tier Challenger event at Morocco in 2015.

Cecchinato appealed, and the Italian Olympic Committee announced in December 2016 that the sanctions were dropped entirely.

Asked Sunday whether he wanted to explain what happened, Cecchinato replied in Italian: "Right now, I want to enjoy this moment. That year was a tough time. I want to think about the present. Maybe we can talk about it after the tournament. Now I want to enjoy the fantastic moment that I am living. And I think that's good enough."

Fact is, his French Open probably should have ended in the first round.

Cecchinato dropped the opening two sets that day against someone named Marius Copil, a Romanian ranked 94th, and then was two points from losing, right then and there. But Cecchinato came all the way back, winning 10-8 in the fifth set.

And so the journey began.

Next came a straight-set win over 190th-ranked Marco Trungelliti. The "lucky loser" made the 10-hour, 650-mile drive with his 88-year-old grandmother, mother and younger brother from his home in Barcelona to Paris once he realized there was a spot in the field available because someone else withdrew.

That was followed by a four-set upset of 10th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta, and then the surprising win over Goffin.

"When he made me run, he was actually dictating the rallies," said Goffin, whose right elbow was looked at by a trainer during the match, "so it was hard for me to have the upper hand."

Cecchinato certainly appeared to be appreciating every moment of his time on Court Suzanne Lenglen. He chatted with himself during changeovers – "I like to talk," he said later—and dropping down onto the red clay after one last backhand winner on match point.

And what a beautiful, one-handed backhand that is.

A reporter wanted to know whether he thinks that shot of his is more like Gustavo Kuerten's or Stan Wawrinka's, a pair of past French Open champions.

"Honestly," came the reply, "I want to be like Cecchinato."

Tigers win top pick in draft, lose to Blue Jays

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Tigers have the overall No. 1 pick when the Major League Baseball draft begins.

Among the top prospects are Auburn right-hander Casey Mize, Florida righty Brady Singer, Georgia Tech catcher Joey Bart and Arizona high school lefty Matthew Liberatore. The Giants choose second, followed by the Phillies, White Sox and Reds. There will be two rounds on the first day, and a total of 40 rounds over three days.

Meanwhile, Justin Smoak's sixth-inning homer broke a scoreless tie and Toronto ended its five-game losing streak after an 8-4 victory over the Tigers.

"This takes some pressure off all of us," Smoak said. "Every one of us was trying to make the play that ended the streak, but now we can just focus on winning the next game.'

Aaron Sanchez (3-5) pitched six innings and ended a five-start winless streak, giving up one run on two hits and three walks while striking out seven.

"I'm not sure what was different, to be honest," he said. "I was aggressive, but I try to do that every game. I guess I was just hitting the strike zone more often."

Michael Fulmer (2-5) allowed four runs on five hits and three walks in six-plus innings, striking out three. Fulmer has a 6.89 ERA in his past six starts.

"I'll be back when I start helping us win some games again," he said. "Sanchez was good today, and I needed to be better."

Sanchez and Fulmer kept the game scoreless through five innings.

Fulmer walked Yangervis Solante with two outs in the sixth, and Smoak hit a 3-2 fastball over the scoreboard in right-centerfield to give the Blue Jays a 2-0 lead.

"We knew getting the first runs was going to be big, with the way both Fulmer and Aaron were pitching," Smoak said. "You always know if it going to be tough to get to (Fulmer), because he's got two great pitches with the fastball and slider."

Leonys Martin led off the bottom of the inning with his seventh homer to make it 2-1.

Fulmer gave up a single and a walk to start the seventh, and was replaced by Warwick Saupold.

"I was happy with what I saw," Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire said. "If we can take that and move forward, we're going to have just what we expected from him."

Devon Travis hit the ball to the wall in right, but Nicholas Castellanos made a leaping catch at the wall. Kevin Pillar took third on the play and scored on Randal Grichuk's double, giving the Blue Jays a two-run lead.

Aledmys Diaz put Toronto ahead by three runs with an RBI single, and Solarte made it 5-1 with a two-out hit. The Blue Jays got a bad break when Smoak's 414-foot double bounced off the centerfield fence—Solarte would have scored easily from first—but Diaz's run gave Toronto a 6-1 lead.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 0

In St. Louis, Michael Wacha lost a no-hit bid in the ninth inning when pinch-hitter Colin Moran led off with a single, leaving to a huge ovation and pitching the St. Louis Cardinals past the Pittsburgh Pirates.

This was the second time Wacha had a no-hit try broken up in the ninth.

Giants 6, Phillies 1

In San Francisco, Dereck Rodriguez earned his first big league win, giving up a home run to Jake Arrieta but outpitching the Phillies ace to lead San Francisco to a three-game sweep.

Braves 4, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, pinch-hitter Charlie Culberson hit a game-ending, two-run homer to lift Atlanta over Washington.

Twins 7, Indians 5

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario hit his third homer of the game, launching a two-run shot in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Minnesota.

Cubs 2, Mets 0

In New York, Jon Lester dominated for seven innings and Javier Baez stole home to break a scoreless tie as the Chicago Cubs blanked the Mets, completing a four-game sweep and winning for the seventh time in eight games.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 7

In Denver, Max Muncy homered twice, Yasmani Grandal also went deep in a three-run ninth inning, and Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Diamondbacks 6, Marlins 1

In Phoenix, Matt Koch allowed three hits over seven scoreless innings and Arizona completed a three-game sweep, sending Miami to its season-worst sixth straight loss.

Angels 3, Rangers 1

In Anaheim, Tyler Skaggs pitched six scoreless innings of four-hit ball and Justin Upton homered for Los Angeles.

Mariners 2, Rays 1

In Seattle, Felix Hernandez was in vintage form, allowing one run in eight innings, and RBI singles from Denard Span and Dee Gordon lifted Seattle.

Athletics 5, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Matt Olson hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning for Oakland.

Olson went 5 for 11 with three home runs, eight RBI and scored five times in the three-game series.

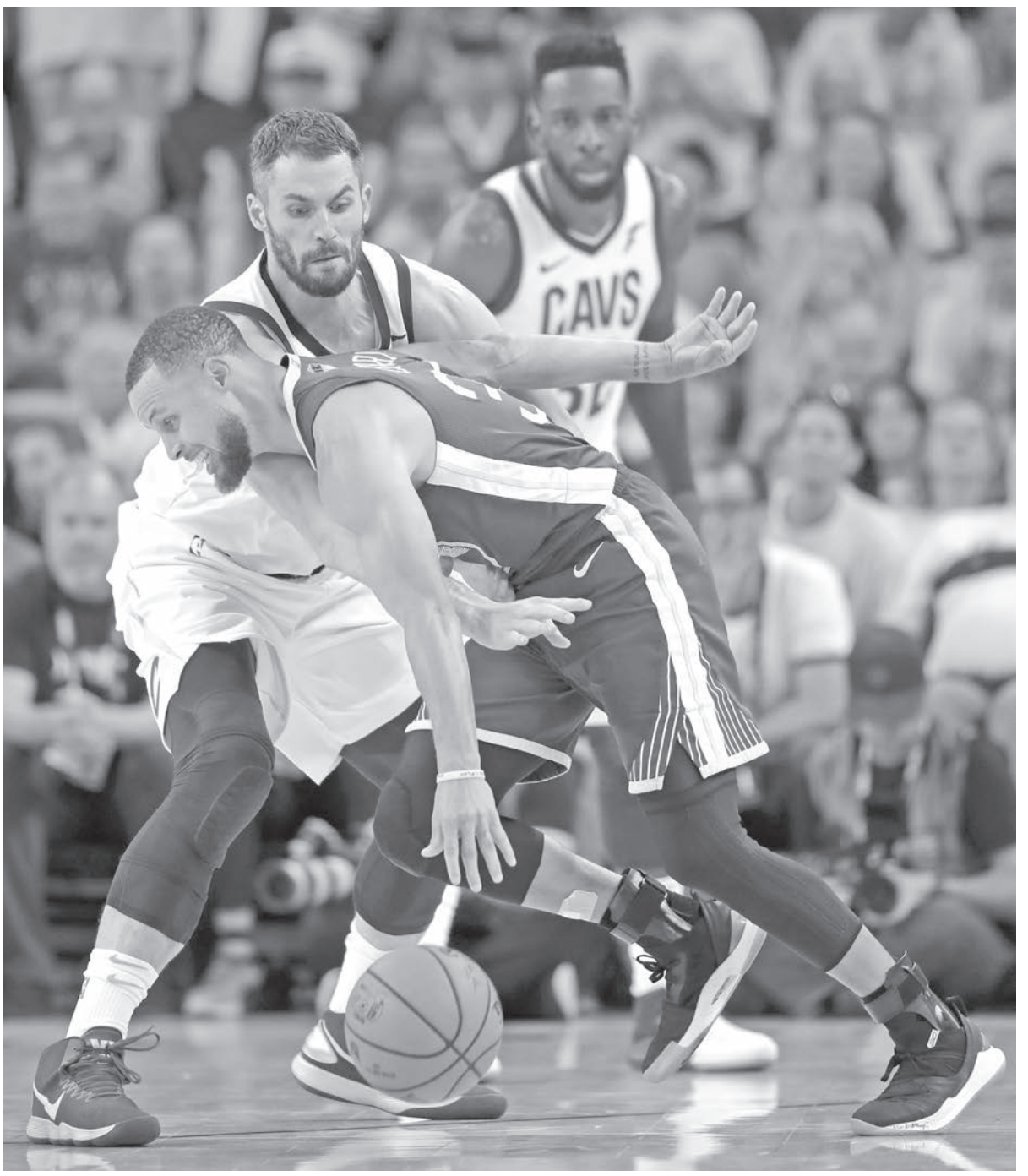
White Sox 6, Brewers 1

In Chicago, Daniel Palka and Adam Engel hit back-to-back homers in a three-run sixth inning, and Chicago beat Milwaukee.

Padres 6, Reds 3

In San Diego, Hunter Renfroe's pinch-hit, go-ahead grand slam in the in the fifth inning lifted Tyson Ross and the Padres to a victory against the Reds.

Curry dazzles from deep, Warriors take 2-0 lead



AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, foreground, drives against Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, June 3, 2018.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry backpedaled in pure joy. He skipped, hollered and let the ball fly from everywhere with that feeling he gets when there's no way it will miss—unwavering even with a defender's hand in his face.

Curry dazzled in outdueling LeBron James as the two superstars traded big shots and celebratory moves, hitting an NBA Finals-record nine 3-pointers and scoring 33 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 122-103 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday night for 2-0 lead.

"Pretty special night," Curry said, "and hopefully some more special things happen and we get two more wins."

Kevin Durant found his steady stroke to score 26 points to go with nine rebounds and seven assists while also handling a load of the defensive assignment against James. Klay Thompson added 20 points playing on a tender left leg to put the defending champions two wins from a repeat title they have talked about since the season began last fall.

James followed up his 51-point performance in Game 1 with 29 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds in a far tamer finals sequel—and a much more lopsided one—minus the utter craziness of a drama-packed opener three days prior.

Game 3 is Wednesday night in Cleveland.

"We want to continue to be uncomfortable," James said. "Just because we're going home doesn't mean we can relax."

Kevin Love had 22 points and 10 boards for the cold-shooting Cavs, who will now try to gain some momentum back home.

Curry had the shot of the night with 7:54 to play, making an off-balance swish from several feet behind the 3-point arc over Love as the shot clock wound down, then scooted backward in delight. Curry fell into the first row of fans with a baseline 3 again over Love and four-point play at the 5:44 mark of the fourth.

"He's a big shot taker, big shot maker," Draymond Green said. "Tough shot taker, tough shot maker."

The long shot over Love stood out to Curry's Splash Brother, Thompson.

"About seven seconds on the clock he just kept going backward, I don't know why, but he just threw it up and I didn't think it had any chance of going in," Thompson said. "That was kind of like a dagger shot. It just gave us all the momentum back."

The two-time MVP made 11 of 26 shots and was 9 for 17 from deep.

James pointed with both hands after his 3 with 11:04 remaining got his team within seven, before Curry answered from deep the next two trips down the floor.

"Those moments when you can come down and answer and keep the momentum on our side, it's big," Curry said. "Keep the crowd into it."

Curry and James had a tense moment in the third, too.

James became irate at the officials for a no-call on Curry, who ran beneath the Cavs star and didn't let him land with 3:54 remaining in the quarter as James caught Love's long pass and went out of bounds. Cavs coach Tyronn Lue was hit with a technical, saying afterward he didn't say much but was on the court.

JaVale McGee scored 12 points, making all six of his shots in his first career NBA Finals start as Kerr made a lineup switch that proved spot on.

The typically efficient Durant connected on 10 of 14 shots after going just 8 for 22—1 of 7 on 3s—in the opener but still scoring 26 points.

Last year's NBA Finals MVP made his initial five field goals Sunday, driving right at James on offense and doing all he could to fluster him on defense.

James hit a 3 over Durant's outstretched arm midway through the third, then Tristan Thompson's basket the next possession pulled the Cavs within 72-66. But they couldn't contain Curry and the rest of the Warriors for extended stretches.

The Warriors vowed to make it harder for James to generate good looks after he shot 19 for 32 in the series opener, and James went 12:06 of game time between made baskets.

James went 10 for 20, showing few signs his shot was altered by a bloodshot left eye. He had been taking antibiotics and using drops after being poked in the eye by Green in the first half Thursday.

The Warriors earned a wacky 124-114 overtime win in Game 1 Thursday night—featuring J.R. Smith's blunder when he grabbed an offensive rebound in the waning moments of regulation and dribbled back toward halfcourt rather than shooting for the victory, and an overturned charge call against James.

Smith received rousing cheers from the home fans during pregame introductions and "M-V-P!" chants greeted him when he went to the foul line.

Thompson played after bruising his lower left leg when Smith slid into him in the first quarter Thursday. The Warriors All-Star has never missed a postseason game.

Kerr went with 7-foot big man McGee to start in place of Kevon Looney—McGee's 10th career start in the postseason.

McGee scored the first four points as Golden State made its initial seven shots and 10 of 11.

Smith gets MVP chants in Game 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—J.R. Smith turned from villain to Warriors' fan favorite thanks to his memorable blunder.

Unfortunately for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Smith was a nonfactor Sunday night after his late-game mistake in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

After he inexplicably dribbled out the clock at the end of regulation in a tied game, Smith was basically a nonfactor on a night LeBron James needed all the help he could get to keep up with Stephen Curry and the Warriors.

Smith made just 2 of 9 shots and didn't make a single basket after the first quarter as the Cavaliers fell into an 0-2 series hole after a 122-103 defeat.

"Terrible," Smith said of his performance. "I have to shoot the ball better. I have to defend better."

The game started with Smith getting loud cheers from the Warriors fans, who booed him mercilessly in Game 1 after Smith slipped and fell into Klay Thompson's leg, sending the Warriors guard to the locker room briefly with an injury.

That sarcastic support continued all game long, with Smith getting serenaded with chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!" on a trip to the foul line in the first quarter.

"I'm always a person the fans like to talk to and heckle," Smith said. "I like it. I'd rather they do that than not acknowledge me at all. I appreciate that."

Smith was a prominent figure in Game 1 for all the wrong reasons. He grabbed an offensive rebound off a missed free throw by George Hill in the final seconds of regulation with the game tied. Smith then dribbled toward midcourt as if he was running out the clock and thinking Cleveland had the lead. The Cavs couldn't get off a shot and lost in overtime.

The Cavs will need much more from Smith when the series shifts to Cleveland for Game 3 on Wednesday night if they are going to match their comeback from an 0-2 deficit.

Kidd to be interviewed for Pistons coaching vacancy

DETROIT (AP)—A week ago when Ed Stefanski was hired as a senior adviser to Pistons' owner Tom Gores, former Raptors' coach Dwane Casey was considered the clear frontrunner to be the next head coach in Detroit.

However, Stefanski wanted a more extensive search. Since then Kenny Smith of TNT, Michigan coach John Beilein, Heat assistant Juwan Howard, Raptors assistant Nick Nurse, and Spurs assistant Ime Udoka have all been part of the search to get the right coach for the Pistons. Now, add Jason Kidd to the list.

Kidd was let go by the Milwaukee Bucks in the middle of last season after that team was not making the steps forward management expected with a talented roster that includes Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Casey likely still ends up being the next coach of the Pistons, a team in a win-now place with Blake Griffin, Andre Drummond, and a healthy Reggie Williams at the point. However, the field does seem more open now.

What has been odd about Stefanski's search is that he is running a simultaneous search to find a general manager (Stan Van Gundy was both coach and the guy in charge of basketball operations). Traditionally a GM is hired and he picks his coach, but not in Detroit this time around

Beilein has been interviewed, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Friday because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. Beilein led the Wolverines to the NCAA championship game this past season, the second time in six years he'd accomplished that. Michigan lost to Louisville in 2013 and Villanova this year.

The 65-year-old Beilein has been at Michigan for 11 seasons.

ESPN first reported Beilein's interview with the Pistons.

World Cup-bound Neymar makes spectacular return

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)—Only three months ago, Brazil striker Neymar was on an operating table and in danger of missing the World Cup in Russia.

Those fears largely disappeared Sunday when Neymar returned to action with smart dribbling, fluent passing and an impressive individual goal, which he celebrated with his surgeon.

Playing for the first time since February, Neymar scored the opener in Brazil's 2-0 friendly win against Croatia in Liverpool after coming on for the second half. He then ran to hug Brazilian soccer confederation doctor Rodrigo Lasmar on the sidelines at Anfield.

"I am so happy to play football again. I have waited and worked a lot for this. I suffered, these were very tough three months," Neymar said. "When I saw the ball hit the net I only thought of those that helped me, Dr. Lasmar, my family, friends."

Neymar, who also withstood a few challenges in the game, received the ball from midfielder Philippe Coutinho in the 68th and dribbled past Croatia defenders Sime Vrsaljko and Duje Caleta-Car. He smashed the ball into the net from around five meters (yards) with his right foot.

The Brazilian injured the same foot playing for Paris Saint-Germain and underwent surgery in Brazil in early March. He did not warm up with the Brazilian team on Sunday, which had again raised concerns among supporters.

AP

Brazil's Neymar, right, battles for the ball with Croatia's Sime Vrsaljko, left, and Mateo Kovacic during the friendly soccer match at Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, England, Sunday, June 3, 2018.

Neymar said he was 80 percent at his best for the Croatia game.

Brazil coach Tite said Neymar's return was "above the expected standard."

"Neymar is only human, but he came back above my expectations too," Tite said. "I was expecting much less."

Neymar had replaced midfielder Fernandinho at halftime with the score at 0-0. He quickly made his mark and raised the hopes of Brazilian fans for the World Cup, which starts June 14.

Tite wasn't getting carried away, though.

"Neymar is going to have ups and downs like he had in training until the third, fourth game (on his return). Then he will have his normal standard," Tite said.

Croatia captain Luka Modric was among many impressed with Neymar.

"It is beautiful to watch him play again, he is special, one of the best in the world," Modric said. Brazil "improved in the second half after Neymar made the difference."

Liverpool's Roberto Firmino scored Brazil's second goal in the 90th. After Casemiro put the ball in the penalty box, Firmino controlled with his chest and sent the ball over Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subasic to step up his challenge for a starting position in the team.

Brazil captain and No. 9 Gabriel Jesus was replaced by Firmino after an hour.

"I am here to help Brazil. I respect Tite's opinion (in starting with Jesus) 100 percent," Firmino said.

The striker also thanked local fans for their support, saying "it is good to play at home."

The same Liverpool supporters who cheered Firmino went out of their way to jeer Coutinho, who left the Reds for Barcelona earlier this year.

Until Neymar stepped onto the pitch it was Croatia which had the best opportunities in a match that seemed headed for a dull draw.

Defender Dejan Lovren had the best chance to open with a header that grazed Brazil goalkeeper Alisson's right post after a corner.

When Fernandinho went off, Coutinho played a greater role and Brazil's game improved.

The five-time World Cup champions play their last pre-World Cup friendly against Austria on June 10.

Monday will be a rest day for the team and Brazilian media claimed midfielder Fred will be traveling to Manchester for medical tests before signing a deal with Manchester United.

Woods happy with his game despite another Sunday fade

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods made it interesting again, but slipped from contention on the last day of a tournament.

Despite being done in by some poor putting at the Memorial, he believes there still was valuable progress.

"I keep getting a little better," the 42-year-old Woods said after shooting an even-par 72 on Sunday at Muirfield Village. "Week in, week out, I keep getting just a little bit more fine-tuned. For instance this week, just to be able to make the slight adaptations after the first nine holes and be able to flip it around and shoot a respectable number."

Woods started the final round five shots off the lead, the third time this year he has been within five to start the last day and couldn't turn it into a win. Bryson DeChambeau won the event in a playoff.

Playing in the Memorial for the first time in three years, Woods birdied two of the first five holes Sunday before hitting from a fairway bunker on No. 6 to the rough in the back of the green. Still, he managed par.

He hit his approach over the green on No. 7 and settled for par again. He couldn't make up any ground on the par-3 No. 8, either, leaving his second shot just short of the hole.

Missing a 3-foot par putt on No. 10 was a killer. He made a slick birdie on the par-5 No. 11, but missed a 7-foot birdie putt on No. 12, then hit his tee shot out of bounds on the 13th and finished with a bogey.

He bogeyed the par-3 No. 16 when he missed another short putt, an unfortunate trend for Woods in a week when he was hitting the ball well off the tee.

He now turns his attention to the U.S. Open in two weeks.

"I just need to hit better putts," he said. "This week I didn't really have, didn't feel comfortable with my lines, and my feel was a little bit off. Consequently I missed a bunch of putts. But I hit it really good this week, so that's a positive going into Shinnecock, where ball striking is going to be a must."

Moving up and then falling back has become a trend for Woods in his comeback bid.

He was one shot behind going into the final round at the Valspar Championship in March and finished tied for second, a shot behind winner Paul Casey. He was five back at the Arnold Palmer Invitational the next week, but couldn't do better than a tie for fifth, eight shots behind winner Rory McIlroy.

He knows he has to improve but is happy with his game overall, especially because before back surgery in April he didn't know if he would ever walk again, let alone play competitive golf.

"Overall, if I just keep building on this, with how I'm hitting it right now, I'm in good shape for two weeks from now," he said.

UPSETS

From Page 28

will face Paire in the 3:30pm championship tiff this Sunday. TanHoldings, which also held an unbeaten mark (6-2-0) before the playoffs to join MP United in the semifinals early, will play in the consolation game against the Teen Ayuyus at 1:30pm.

Meanwhile, it will be Shirley's versus Matansa in the winner-take-all finale in Division B this Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Shirley's set up the title showdown with Matansa after stunning the No. 1 seed Korean Football Association on Saipan in the second semis game in the division, 13-1.

Shirley's, which was ranked No. 4 going into the playoffs after earning a 4-1-5 record and losing in the tiebreak against Sun Palace, demolished KFAS after drawing five goals from Jun Liu and getting contributions from six other players.

Jun made a hat trick right after the first half to lift Shirley's to a commanding 6-0 lead. He got his first in the 22nd minute and the next two in the 33rd and 36th. Jedidah Peteru added a brace in the opening half, while Jung Hun Kang delivered the other goal for Shirley's in that period.

Then in the second half, Jun had another back-to-back, while Justin Tan duplicated that feat, and Louis Ryu and Alvin Takai posted the next two goals for the streaking Shirley's. Jerry Tan then capped Shirley's dominance with a goal in the 77th minute.

KFAS avoided a shutout when Oliver Lee scored in the 86th minute, but still the loss was an embarrassment for a squad that dropped only a single game in 10 matches in the regular season.

In other results in Division B, Matansa outclassed Sun Palace, 2-1, to book the first finals berth in their group.

Amzad Khan knocked in the go-ahead goal in the 82nd minute, while Gabriel Arkoh registered the other goal for Matansa in the 24th. Feng Yu logged the sole goal for Sun Palace in the 34th minute.

Matansa will meet Shirley's in the 4pm title match after the 2pm battle for third place between KFAS and Sun Palace.

CNMI

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8:30am.

Meanwhile, in the men's division, the CNMI also won over Tonga, 2-0. The Commonwealth crew made up of Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, and Jimin Woo, are playing for the No. 9 to 14 rankings after missing the Top 8 cut.

Schorr defeated Filipe Huni in the first singles match, 6-2, 6-1, while Woo was handed the win in the second singles after Siale Fatai retired in the deciding super tiebreaker third set due to fatigue. Woo lost the opening set, 2-6, but remained in the race after taking the second, 6-4. The CNMI junior player was then up in the third set, 1-0, when Fatai decided not to continue playing.

Woo and company will see action in their last game today when they duel American Samoa, which also swept Tuvalu yesterday, 2-0.

In the finale, it will be Tahiti versus Vanuatu. Tahiti gained the first finals berth after blanking the Solomon Islands, while Vanuatu posted a similar win over the Cook Islands.

OL'ACES

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games of the Chinatown Titans (3-6) and NSA Warriors 2 (2-7). Law NMI Rollers (1-8) and Kagman Sparkls (0-9) are out of contention in the single-elimination playoffs.

The CT Law NMI Rollers notched win No. 7 after downing the Chinatown Titans, 50-33, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The CT Law NMI Rollers set up the double-digit victory after holding the Chinatown Titans to one field goal in the first period. Louie Calayag made the lone field goal—a triple—for the Titans, while Matthew Richarson scored 8 points for the CT Law NMI Rollers to hand his squad a 14-4 advantage after the opening canto.

It was cruise control for the CT Law NMI Rollers from thereon en route to their 17-point winning margin.

In other games last Saturday, Saipan Vegas Elite and 670 Sonics XVII defeated their respective opponents.

Saipan Vegas Elite earned its fourth win after outclassing the Law NMI Rollers, 52-46.

Isaac Perez and Albert Atan stepped up for Saipan Vegas Elite in the fourth quarter to keep their team's safe distance against the Law NMI Rollers. Atan registered 8 points in the final canto, which started with Saipan Vegas ahead by only 4, 36-32. Perez, on the other hand, scored 4 of the squad's last 8 markers.

The 670 Sonics XVII got victory No. 5 after easing past the Kagman Sparks, 54-26.

The 670 Sonics XVII led right from the get-go after holding down the Sparks to three fields goals in the first quarter. The 670 Sonics XVII then pulled away in the second canto, as Kagman's offense turned from bad into worse as it only made 3 markers in that period.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Stage is set for Portugal, Spain

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune will run a series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia. Today, we are featuring teams in Group B)

MOSCOW (AP)—All eyes will be focused on Portugal and Spain in this group. Portugal will be riding on the momentum of its 2016 Euro Cup victory in a bid to top the pool and boost Ronaldo's chances of winning a World Cup—the trophy that would complete his celebrated career. Spain is aching to bounce back after a shocking group stage exit in 2014 and prevailing in its highly anticipated duel against Portugal will be a big statement game for the La Roja. Iran and Morroco must be in their best form to prove they are not just "spectators" in this group.

PORTUGAL

Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of winning the World Cup with Portugal are running out.

Portugal has proven it has the mettle needed to win major international tournaments after it ground though the 2016 European Championship and beat host France in the final despite an early injury to Ronaldo.

Portugal will take a large part of that experienced squad to Russia. Pepe is a physical enforcer in defense, Joao Moutinho adds passing skills to its midfield, and newcomer Andre Silva can help Ronaldo in attack.

KEY PLAYER: *Ronaldo* (Real Madrid)—At 32, Ronaldo is no longer the goal machine he once was. Key to success in Russia could be how he is managed by Real Madrid for the rest of the season.

COACH: *Fernando Santos*—Since taking over the team in 2014, Santos has forged a solid defensive block that gives just enough help to Ronaldo.

SPAIN

The managerial change from Vicente del Bosque to Julen Lopetegui has reinvigorated a team that was in clear decline after it failed to defend its World Cup title in 2014 and its European title in 2016.

With a surplus of talented midfielders and forwards, David de Gea in goal, and Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique anchoring its defense, Spain's one possible doubt may be who leads the attack.

Alvaro Morata is in line to be Spain's striker after impressing at Chelsea. His only potential challenger is the man he replaced in London, Diego Costa, who will finally be back to playing after several months of inactivity when Atletico Madrid's transfer ban finishes at the start of January.

KEY PLAYER: Andres Iniesta (Barcelona)—Scored the sole goal of the 2010 World Cup final but will be 34 in this month's tournament.

COACH: Julen Lopetegui—The 51-year-old former goalkeeper steered Spain through an undefeated qualifying campaign of nine wins and one draw, including a 3-0 victory over Italy.

IRAN

Iran was the first team to qualify from Asia, sealing its spot with a 2-0 win over Uzbekistan in June.

The Iranians went unbeaten in 18 qualifying games. In the last round, Iran didn't concede a goal in nine games but finished with a 2-2 draw against Syria.

Iran will be playing in its fifth World Cup, qualifying back-to-back for the first time.

Iran went winless at the 2014 World Cup, but this time coach Carlos Queiroz is targeting the knockout stages, saying Iran will "not go to Russia as tourists."

KEY PLAYER: Sardar Azmoun (Rubin Kazan)—The 22-year-old forward emerged as a scoring threat at the 2015 Asian Cup and has already scored 22 international goals.

COACH: Carlos Queiroz—The veteran Portuguese coach retained his job after the 2014 World Cup and has rebuilt the squad, bringing in young players such as Azmoun.

MOROCCO

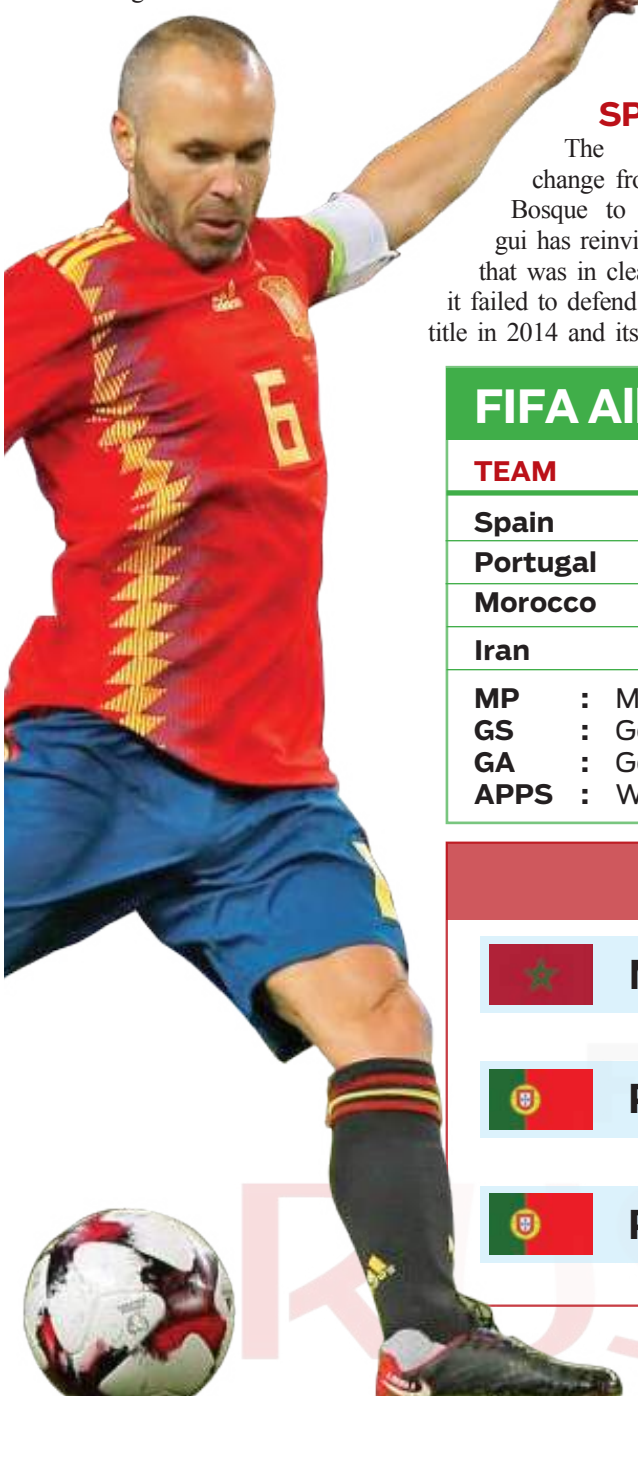
It has taken 20 years for Morocco to get back to the World Cup.

The North African team features several promising young talents, including Ajax midfielder Hakim Ziyech and Younes Belhanda. Ziyech returned to the squad after making peace with coach Herve Renard.

Renard has brought discipline and flair to a team developing an exciting brand of soccer based on solid defending and fast attacking tempo.

KEY PLAYER: Nabil Dirar (Fenerbahce)—The versatile midfielder was a key element of the Monaco side that won the French league title last season.

COACH: Herve Renard—The French coach has had success with other African teams, winning the African Cup of Nations with Zambia in 2012 and the Ivory Coast three years later.



FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
Spain	5	99	59	29	12	18	92	66	1.7	14
Portugal	17	43	26	13	4	9	43	29	1.6	6
Morocco	44	10	13	2	4	7	12	18	0.8	4
Iran	54	6	12	1	3	8	7	22	0.5	4

MP : Matches played
GS : Goal scored
GA : Goals against
APPS : World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)

GROUP B SCHEDULE

Morocco VS Iran (June 16, 1AM, St. Petersburg)	Iran VS Spain (June 21, 4AM, Kazan)
Portugal VS Spain (June 15, 4AM, Sochi)	Iran VS Portugal (June 26, 4AM, Saransk)
Portugal VS Morocco (June 20, 1PM, Moscow)	Spain VS Morocco (June 26, 4AM, Kaliningrad)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Djokovic reaches French Open quarterfinals

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Sports

Curry dazzles from deep, Warriors take 2-0 lead

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Upsets mark M-League semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Shirley's FC booted out their higher-seeded opponents to move into the finals of their respective divisions in the 2018 Spring M-League.

The No. 3 seed Paire recorded the first upset in the semifinal round in Division A after nosing out No. 2 TanHoldings FC, 1-0, in the curtain-raiser at the Hopwood Middle School Field last Sunday.

Daniel Agulto drilled the winning goal for Paire in the 90th minute, bringing his team to the title game against the top-ranked MP United this Sunday.

MP United kept its unbeaten run this season and notched the second finals berth in the division after shutting down the Teen Ayuyus, 2-0. Raymond Mercado towed MP United to the win after scoring the pair of goals for the favored squad. He got his first in the 54th minute and the second in the last minute of the semis match.

MP United, which finished the preliminary with an 8-1-0 win-draw-loss record to bag one of the two outright semis tickets in the division,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club's Josiegen Soquena, left, nudges Sun Palace's Hugo Kan, center, while the former's teammate Travis Camacho chases the ball during the second half of their Divison B semis game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Ol'Aces Real Deal leads playoff qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces Real Deal is still unscathed in the boys U18 division and leads six others teams that are playoff-bound in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League.

The Ol'Aces Real Deal improved to a 9-0 record after last weekend games and is likely to hike its mark to 10-0, as it was way ahead against the Chinatown Titans, 79-28, after three quarters of their one-sided match yesterday.

The CT Law NMI Rollers (pending the complete results of last night's games), is in second place with a 7-1 record and is likely to be joined in the playoff round by Saipan Vegas Extreme (6-3), NSA Warriors 1 (6-4), 670 Sonics XVI (5-3), 670 Sonics XVIII (5-3), and 670 Sonixs XVII (5-5).

Only the Top 8 out of the 12 squads in the division will earn slots to the playoffs and Saipan Vegas (4-3) may join the early qualifier depending on the results of the remaining

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces Real Deal's Dean Blake pulls up for a shot against two Chinatown Titans defenders during the third quarter of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CNMI edges Cook Islands, moves into finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI showed grace under pressure after eking out a 2-1 victory over the Cook Islands in the playoff round in the women's division team event of the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific yesterday in Fiji.

Carol Lee and Isabel Heras teamed up in securing the close win and a finals berth for the CNMI, as they defeated Tamara Anderson and Britanny Teei, 6-3, 6-1.

Earlier in the first singles game, Lee extended her winning run in the tournament after dominating Teei, 6-1, 6-1. Then in the second singles game, Anderson topped Heras, 6-2, 6-1, to keep the Cook Islands in contention. However, Heras made up for the loss quickly with the help of Lee as they swept their foes in the deciding doubles match.

With the victory, the CNMI earned the right to face Samoa, which is also undefeated in the tournament following a 2-0 triumph over Oceania Women's Combined 2 yesterday. Steffi Carruthers and Eleanor Schuster delivered the pair of wins for Samoa after they outclassed Papua New Guinea's Patricia Apisah, 6-0, 6-2, and Tuvalu's Alesi Molotii, 6-2, 6-3.

The CNMI-Samoa title game today will be played at

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OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
Members of the CNMI men's and women's teams pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the Inaugural Nations Cup Pacific last week in Fiji.